

'BAMA

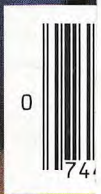
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Inside:
Recruiting

Also:

- Behind The Scenes
- Spring Sports
- And more

FEBRUARY, 2001
VOLUME 23,
NUMBER 2



BLOOD DIRT CONTROVERSY.

**IN-DEPTH FOOTBALL COVERAGE AT
BamaMag.com**

message boards • chat • audio & video highlights • in-depth team analysis • team gear



Order the college sports publication that gets you inside coverage of your favorite team!!

You enjoy following your favorite team no matter where you live so why not give your friends and family the same great opportunity. Every publication listed provides player features, game recaps, opponent previews, recruiting updates and much, much more. Order your subscription today!

02. ARIZONA - Cat Tracks 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$59	cattracks.net	29. MISSISSIPPI - Ole Miss Spirit 32 issues, \$40	omspirit.com
03. ARKANSAS - Hawks Illustrated 19 magazines, 2 yearbooks, \$44.90	hawkillustrated.com	30. MISSOURI - Inside Mizzou Sports 20 issues, \$44.95	insidemizzou.com
04. AUBURN - Inside the Auburn Tigers 10 magazines, 11 newsletters, \$35	auburnsports.com	31. NEBRASKA - Huskers Illustrated 17 issues, 1 yearbook, \$44.95	huskersillustrated.com
05. BOSTON COLLEGE - Eagle Action 12-13 issues, \$34.95	bostoncollege.rivals.com	32. NORTH CAROLINA - Carolina Blue 35 issues, \$39.95	carolinablue.com
06. BYU - Cougar Sports Magazine 12 issues, \$23.95	cougarsportsmag.com	33. NORTH CAROLINA STATE - Wolfpacker 18 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$35.95	thewolfpacker.com
07. CENTRAL FLORIDA - Into the Knights 10 issues, 1 yearbook, \$25.95	intotheknights.com	34. NOTRE DAME - Blue & Gold Illustrated 20 issues, \$39.95	blueandgold.com
08. CINCINNATI - Bearcat Sports Digest 20 issues, \$32.95	ispsports.com	35. OHIO STATE - Buckeye Sports Bulletin 30 issues, \$50	buckeyesports.com
09. COLORADO - Buffalo Sports News 20 issues, 1 yearbook, \$39	buffalosportsnews.com	36. OKLAHOMA - Sooners Illustrated 17 magazines, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	soonersillustrated.com
10. CONNECTICUT - Husky Blue & White 14 issues, 1 yearbook, \$35		37. OKLAHOMA STATE - O-State Sports Report 16 issues, 1 yearbook, \$34.90	gapokes.com
11. DUKE - Blue Devil Weekly 25 issues, 1 yearbook, \$31.95		38. OREGON - Fighting Ducks Review 24 issues, \$45.50	fightingducks.com
12. EAST CAROLINA - Pirates' Chest 20 issues, \$25		39. PENN STATE - Blue White Illustrated 28 issues, \$42	bluwhite.net
13. FLORIDA - Gator Bait 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$49.95	gatorbait.net	40. PURDUE - Gold & Black Illustrated 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$49.95	goldandblack.com
14. FLORIDA STATE - Osceola 34 issues, \$48	osceolanews.com	41. SOUTH CAROLINA - Spurs & Feathers 35 issues, \$34	spursandfeathers.com
15. GEORGIA - Georgia Bulldog Magazine 13 magazines, 17 newsletters, \$30	georgiadogs.com	42. SYRACUSE - The Big Orange 4 issues, \$44	superorange.com
16. GEORGIA TECH - Rambling Wreck 13 issues, \$24.95	ispsports.com	43. TEMPLE - OwlScoop 18 issues, \$34.95	owlscoop.com
17. INDIANA - Inside Indiana 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$47	insideindiana.com	44. TENNESSEE - Rocky Top News 33 magazines, 1 yearbook, \$43	rockytop.com
18. IOWA - Voice of the Hawkeyes 23 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$42.90	voiceofthehawkeyes.com	45. TENNESSEE - Volunteers Magazine 25 issues, 2 guides, \$34.97	utsports.com
19. IOWA STATE - Cyclone Illustrated 18 issues, \$44.95	cycloneillustrated.com	46. TEXAS - Homs Illustrated 20 issues, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	homsillustrated.com
20. KANSAS - Jayhawk Insider 20 issues, \$44.95	jayhawkinsider.com	47. TEXAS A&M - Ags Illustrated 17 issues, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	agsillustrated.com
21. KANSAS STATE - Purple Pride 20 issues, \$44.95	purplepride.com	48. TEXAS TECH - Red Raider Sports 16 issues, 1 yearbook, \$34.90	redraidersports.com
22. KENTUCKY - The Cats' Pause 35 issues, \$47.50	catopause.com	50. VIRGINIA - Cavalier Corner 12 issues, \$27.95	cavaliercorner.com
23. LSU - Tiger Rag 36 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$52	tigeragg.com	51. VIRGINIA TECH - Hokie Huddler 33 issues, \$37.95	hokiesportsinfo.com
24. LOUISVILLE - SportsReport 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$43.95	cardinalsports.com	52. WAKE FOREST - Gold Rush 16 issues, \$29.95	ispsports.com
25. MARYLAND - Terrapin Times 12 issues, \$39.95	terrapintimes.com	53. WASHINGTON - Sports Washington 17 issues, \$34.95	
26. MIAMI - Canes Sport 21 issues first-class mail, \$49.95	thecanes.com	54. WEST VIRGINIA - Blue & Gold News 32 issues, \$32.95	bluegoldnews.com
27. MICHIGAN - Wolverine 26 issues, 1 yearbook, \$44.95	thewolverine.com	55. WISCONSIN - Inside Wisconsin 25 issues, \$39.95	insideuw.com
28. MICHIGAN STATE - Spartan Magazine 18 issues, \$36.95	spartanmag.com	56. **MARSHALL - Herd Insider 27 issues \$38 **NEW PUBLICATION**	

CALL NOW TO ORDER

1-800-276-8401

Number and Name of Publication: No. <input type="text"/>		Name: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		Address: <input type="text"/>	
Amount Enclosed: \$ <input type="text"/>		City: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa		State: <input type="text"/> Zip: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	
Card No.: <input type="text"/>		Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Exp. Date: <input type="text"/>		ALA	
Mail to: CSPA SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. Box 692, Holmes, PA 19043-0692			





P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054
(205) 345-5074
FAX (205) 345-1260
E-Mail: BamaMag@aol.com
For subscriptions: 1-800-713-2261

Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Associate Editor: J.E. Lisby
Artist: Dan Proctor

Contributing Writers:

Tom Culpepper, Peter Edmund,
James Edwards, Donna Fromme,
John Hayden, Jason Houston,
Ted James, Jess Nicholas,
Andrew Varble II, Tim Watts

Contributing Photographers:

Butch Dill, Kaka Gidley, Kent Gidley,
Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

Computer Consultant:

Stuart McNair, The McNairs@hotmail.com

Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE (USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is published monthly for ten months from August to May by College Sports Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and at additional mailing office. Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change of address: Six weeks advance notice, and old address as well as new required. Address all correspondence to: Post Office Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs unless accompanied by return postage. Copyright © 2001 College Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

'BAMA is an independent publication, not associated with The University of Alabama.

CHARTER MEMBER

CSPA

College Sports
Publishers Association

P.O. Box 13515
(352) 372-1215

Gainesville, FL 32604
FAX (352) 372-2283

*Keep up with the Crimson Tide
at any time from your telephone!*



Hotline

Two Ways to Dial!
1-900-860-1979
or Toll Free at 1-800-390-5010*

***Same Great Information. Same Cost.**

**With our new credit card system you can access the 'BAMA
HOTLINE from hotels, pay phones, work,
and 900 Line-Blocked numbers.
VISA and MasterCard accepted.**

Charge is \$1.59 per minute

**Callers under 18 obtain parents' permission
24-Hour Service**

Calls may be made from TouchTone or rotary telephone

RECRUITING INFORMATION

Updates (Selection 5) by 8 p.m. CT daily through February 6.
On Signing Day, February 7, hourly updates begin 10 a.m. CST
Final Football Recruiting Update by 8 p.m. CST Thursday, February 8
Weekly updates by 8 p.m. CST resume Sunday, February 11

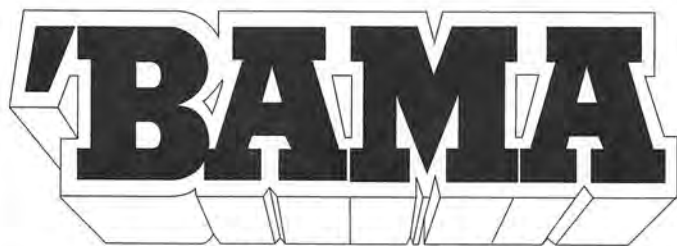
UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

Updates (Selection 4) within an hour of the completion of men's basketball
games and weekly updates by 8 p.m. CT Sundays

FOOTBALL UPDATES

Daily updates (Selection 2) and Weekly updates (Selection 3)
will resume with spring practice starting Sunday, March 11

A service of 'BAMA Magazine
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 2001

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

Contents

On The Cover: With a late start, no one expected Alabama's new coaching staff to have a great recruiting year. But when the Tide landed quarterback Brodie Croyle, who is already enrolled at The University, the Bama coaches had achieved an absolute must in recruiting. But the Dennis Franchione team hasn't stopped there. Despite obstacles, recruiting is going well. See Page 6.

Barry Fikes Photo



Page 12

Football Recruiting: Tide Has To Overcome Obstacles

6

It was expected that a new coaching staff would be behind in the recruiting wars, but Bama's new staff could hardly have expected the difficulties that have arisen. Still, the coaches have persevered and Alabama should have a decent recruiting class.
by Kirk McNair

Meet The Staff: Alabama Football's Detail Man

12

Charley North's title is Director of Football Operations, and a large number of duties fall under that umbrella. He brings an impressive football background to Alabama, one in which he calls on his experience for a variety of tasks.
by Kirk McNair



Page 14

Meet The Staff: Pollard Will Carry Out Mandate

14

One trademark of Dennis Franchione football teams has been the overall strength of the players. Ben Pollard has won national recognition for the job he does in making a team stronger. Now he'll put Tide players through an off-season regimen.
by J.E. Lisby

Erwin Dudley: Soph Has Worked To Be Star

16

When Jeremy Hays elected to give up basketball at Bama, extra pressure was put on sophomore inside player Erwin Dudley. Dudley, who showed as a freshman that he has great skills, has responded with excellent performances this season.
by Jason Houston



Page 16

Golf Outlook: All The News Seems To Be Good

20

Everything on the Alabama golf front seems to be good these days as both the men and women show championship caliber players and the Crimson Tide teams have new facilities for practice, play and recruiting.
by Donna Fromme

Tennis Outlook: Building Efforts Should Pay Off

22

Both the men's and women's teams were very young last year, and the Tide sometimes took its lumps. But this year both squads have experience, depth, and, most of all, talent, and the expectations are much higher.
by Andrew Varble II

Injury Update: Tiders Working Hard To Recover

24

One reason for Alabama's poor football showing in 2000 was a rash of injuries to Crimson Tide players. Rehabilitation for most is going well.
by J.E. Lisby

The Departments

Depth Chart By Class	10
Scorecard	26
Winter Sports Schedules	28
Spring Sports Schedules	29



Page 24

Tide Has To Overcome Obstacles

by James Edwards

Despite various charges, Alabama attracts players

Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione and his assistant coaches must sometimes wonder if they made the right decision. Even if they don't question their moves to Tuscaloosa, they surely must ponder what else can go wrong.

The one thing that seems to be going pretty well for Bama on the football front is recruiting, and that has been in the most difficult of circumstances. The Crimson Tide staff was up against the wall in recruiting just by the fact it was not on board until December. Moreover, they were moving into unfamiliar territory, having to learn the lay of the recruiting land at breakneck speed. And, as expected, they found recruiting had been neglected to great extent by their predecessors in that time following the announcement that Mike DuBose would not be retained as head coach.

And it's also true that the new staff came in with what they thought were eyes wide open regarding an NCAA probe into the football program. As it turned out, a bizarre story from Memphis would cause extraordinary damage to Alabama whether the story turns out to be true or not. (If it turns out to be true, the damage will be incalculable.)

Franchione and Assistant Coach Mark Parks also had to deal with some baggage from their days at TCU. Although the story was almost instantly discredited, both coaches were distraught over a complaint filed with the Office for Civil Rights by two of their former TCU players, twins who were back-up performers. The complaint alleged racial discrimination. The story had already been investigated and found to be unsubstantiated when Franchione was still in Texas. However, it surfaced again, and Alabama found itself on the defensive among recruiting opponents charging the Tide staff as racist. Fortunately, TCU players by the handful came forward to support their former coaches.



Dennis Franchione

Franchione said, "As we press forward I'm reminded of an excerpt from a book, 'Peak Performers,' by Charles Garfield, in which he says that no matter how difficult the circumstances, regardless of how much an assault on the mind and the body, the peak performer always thinks something can be done about it, and can always be found seeking a solution. Our coaches hit the road for the recruiting wars with that in mind."

Along the way, Franchione had to deal with his football team. For one thing, he completed his coaching staff with the hiring of Ken Rucker from North Carolina. Although Rucker coached linebackers and special teams at North Carolina, his previous experience included a very successful stint as running backs coach at Texas A&M.

Additionally, Alabama's off-season program got under way. Franchione said that first tests were good in that they showed Tide players had been working out. He noted that about 18 Tide players could bench press 400 or more pounds and that another 18 were close to that figure. In answer to a question he said that was much better than when he first went to TCU, where only three could bench press 400, but not as good as TCU players did last August, when 55 of the 105

reporting for pre-season practice reached that mark.

The staff was also involved with the team as agility drills were held for the first of three Saturday mornings on January 13. Franchione said, "It felt great for my staff and me to get involved in our strongest passion, coaching. The players were very enthusiastic at our 7 a.m. workout. For a first time workout, I told them I would give them an A. Compared to where we will be, they got a C, and that was okay."

The Tide's head coach also had to take time out for a trip to Houston, where he was one of six national finalists for the Bear Bryant Award, given to the nation's top college football coach as determined by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. The award is named for Alabama's most famous football coach. Gene Stallings won the award in 1992 while coaching at Alabama and Mike DuBose was a finalist last year. This year's award went to Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops.

Franchione also announced that two players would not return to the team. They are offensive tackle Garry McNealy and defensive end Leslie Williams.

Spring practice begins March 12 and concludes with the A-Day Game April 14. Meanwhile, Franchione said, in addition to the off-season strength and conditioning program, "The players have begun their study hall requirements, and we have a mandatory class attendance policy. The players also will have breakfast together each weekday morning."

Recruiting results won't be known completely until signing day, February 7, but the early returns look good. Quarterback Brodie Croyle, regarded by many recruiting analysts as the nation's top quarterback prospect despite the fact he did not participate as a senior because of a knee injury, has enrolled at The University for the spring semester. He was joined by Franchione's first Alabama signee, Atlas Herrion, an offensive lineman from Daphne who wavered between Alabama and Auburn before signing with the Tide. He was a December graduate of Dodge City (Kansas) Community College.

While Bama had some 13 other prospects committed with about two and a half weeks

Keep Up With Signings On February 7!

Indeed, you can keep up with all facets of all Alabama sports, including Crimson Tide recruiting year-round, on our internet site, <http://BamaMag.com>

You get daily reports from 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair (who answers questions and also hosts regular chats) and information from regional and national experts.

On Signing Day, Wednesday, February 7, we will have up-dates as signings are confirmed.

We will update the Hotline (1-900-860-1979) hourly beginning at 10 a.m. CST on February 7. Over 18 only; \$1.59 per minute

until signing day, there were still critical recruiting battles being waged. Franchione had said he hoped to sign 23 new players, but he has maintained he will not sign men he does not think are capable of helping Bama win championships. One everyone believes can help win championships has been a difficult recruiting chore. Carnell Williams, a tailback from Attalla Etowah who was named Mr. Football in Alabama, was long considered a lock for the Crimson Tide. Then the recruiting process started and he committed to Tennessee without ever having made an official visit to The University.

Bama can thank Auburn, at least in part, for Williams postponing his commitment to Tennessee. Auburn sent most of its coaching staff into Williams' home and got him to agree to make a visit to Auburn. At the same time, Williams announced he would also take his final visit to Alabama the weekend of January 26, then make a decision between Alabama, Auburn and Tennessee.

Alabama is also waiting for a decision from the state's top offensive lineman, a man once committed to Alabama but now deciding between the Tide and Tennessee. Von Ewing of Charles Henderson of Troy appears to have some of the same pressure that Williams has. Both have fathers who have indicated a preference for Tennessee over Alabama.

In a reminder that negative recruiting is alive and well, Williams and Ewing are thought to be prospects who told Alabama coaches that they had been told on their visits to Tennessee that Alabama was going to receive the "Death Penalty" from the NCAA. Marie Robbins, the Tide's associate athletics director for compliance, did not confirm the prospects, but said Alabama was aware of the report and had taken appropriate steps to address the problem.

Alabama also has concerns about at least two men who have committed to the Tide. Defensive lineman Mac Tyler of Bessemer, who has been at Milford Prep School in Connecticut since signing with Alabama in 1999, is reportedly facing questions about his academic requirements. All-America placekicker Mike McLaughlin of Gautier, Mississippi, was reported to have been reconsidering his commitment in favor of Notre Dame. One player who had committed to the previous staff, defensive lineman Dave Peterson, has announced he will attend LSU, reportedly a mutual agreement between the new Bama staff and Peterson.

Ordinarily the loss of a prospect is not considered a loss because one can't lose what one has never had. But in the case of a top offensive line prospect, Alabama appears likely to lose a former signee. Although Maurice "Mo" Mitchell of Albany, Georgia, said he was still considering re-signing with Alabama, it appeared more likely he would head elsewhere, perhaps to Georgia where former Bama Coach Neil Callaway has landed.

The Franchione staff, most of whom came

from TCU, is making use of its Texas connections. Among Bama commitments are offensive lineman J.B. Closner of San Antonio and running back Derek Farmer of Tyler, and a number of other Texas prospects had agreed to make visits to Alabama.

Franchione discussed some of his recruiting philosophy. He noted that he was aware of a fans' poll on the BamaMag.com website in which Alabama supporters voted on what they thought the Tide's strongest recruiting need was. Most said they thought the greatest need is for defensive linemen. Franchione said, "From our early assessments, it would appear that defensive linemen and offensive linemen are the biggest needs. Then, tight ends and defensive backs.

"We felt we needed to sign two quarterbacks and two running backs.

"Usually, we break down the recruiting categories into what we call HOG (hands on the ground), Stand-Up, and Skill positions. Hands-on-the-ground are linemen. Stand-ups are linebackers, tight ends, and fullbacks. Skill players are receivers and defensive backs. Quarterback, Running Back, and Kicker are unique, so we have listed them separately. We have a formula for the ideal makeup of the squad, broken down this way.

"Under the circumstances, we're recruiting more from a 'little bit of everything' standpoint. We don't know the exact formula we need yet, because in spring practice we might find that some returning players fit into our system in a different way than they played in the past.

"Our goal in spring practice is to identify the best 22 players on the team and get them on the field. Then, we find the next 22 best players and get them in back-up positions. As I told the team, we will evaluate from this point forward; they all have a clean slate with us to compete for playing time.

"At the moment we have 23 scholarships available, and we're looking for a broad-based recruiting class."

Franchione is having to address problems with all prospects and their families. Although the story from Memphis would seem on the surface to have no credibility, dozens of media outlets and others bought into it, and Alabama's compliance officials and NCAA investigators looked into it. Briefly, the story came from a former assistant football coach at Trezevant High School, Milton Kirk. Kirk claimed that he and Head Coach Lynn Lang cooked up a deal to sell the services of defensive lineman Albert Means for \$200,000. Kirk said the original

WE'LL ERASE YOUR COLLEGE LOAN.

If you're stuck with a (federally insured) student loan that's not in default, the Army might pay it off.

If you qualify, we'll reduce your debt—up to \$65,000. Payment is either $\frac{1}{3}$ of the debt or \$1,500 for each year of service, whichever is greater.

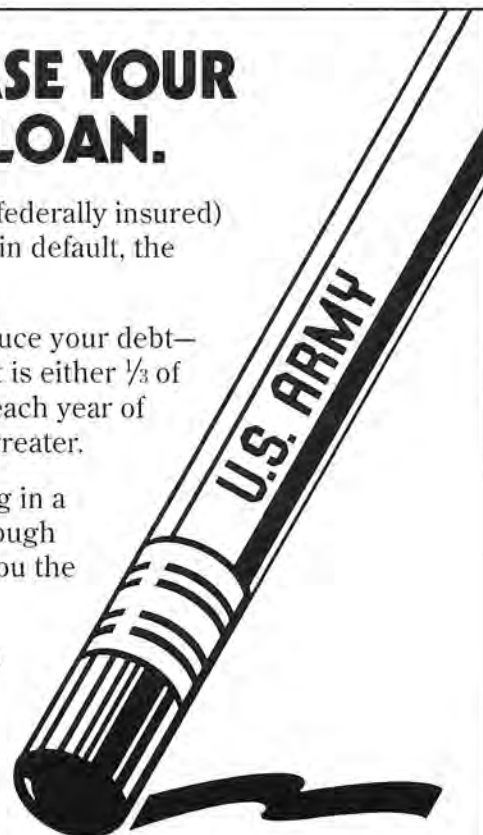
You'll also have training in a choice of skills and enough self-assurance to last you the rest of your life.

Get all the details from your Army Recruiter.

1-800 USA-ARMY

ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.®

www.goarmy.com





Call Today!
1-800-713-2261

- **Subscribe**
- **Re-New**
- **Gift**

Subscriptions

A subscription to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, is the best way for Alabama fans to keep up with their favorite team.

'BAMA includes 10 magazines and newsletters mailed first class after every football game.

While the emphasis is on football and football recruiting, ALL Alabama men's and women's sports are covered.

And no one covers recruiting, before and after the signing dates, like 'BAMA.

Use our convenient toll free telephone number to subscribe, re-new your subscription, or to give a gift to a Crimson Tide fan. Gift subscriptions include a card announcing your generosity.

(Telephone orders VISA and MasterCard only.)

Or you may FAX your credit card order to 1-205-345-1260 or mail your check for \$35 per subscription (Alabama residents must include an additional \$2 for sales tax) to

'BAMA
P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054

plan was to charge \$100,000 plus two luxury vehicles but that the plan was changed to prevent a paper trail. Means signed with Alabama last year and made a modest contribution to the Tide in his freshman season. His performance was hindered by Means reporting out of shape and later suffering an ankle injury.

Kirk also said that Lang received the money from an unnamed booster or boosters (Kirk said he didn't know the identity), then failed to share it with Kirk. However, Kirk said his motivation was not that he didn't get his split for his part in the selling of Means. He said he was concerned that Means had not gotten anything, including, he said in listing a proverbial laundry list of items, "30 pair of underwear." Kirk also accused former Alabama Assistant Coach Ivy Williams of brokering the deal.

There were all sorts of accusations and denials. The *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, which has championed the Kirk story, had several anonymous corroborators and one former assistant coach at Arkansas who said that Lang had sought money for Means. Lang and Williams denied the story and threatened lawsuits against Kirk. The athletics director of Memphis city schools was quoted as saying he had known Kirk for 21 years and wouldn't believe him. Various law enforcement agencies promised to get involved.

Meanwhile, Kirk said that everyone in the "community" (except the Means family) knew about the sale of Means' services. He added that he told Means of the scheme in December. Means' mother, meanwhile, said she didn't learn of the accusations until early January.

Alabama officials said both they and the NCAA had been aware of the charge and had investigated it.

A few days after the beginning of classes for the spring semester at Alabama, Means (accompanied by Kirk) drove to Tuscaloosa and Means withdrew from The University.

Franchione said he did not attempt to convince Means to stay at Alabama. Means, who had received counseling from Rip Scherer (recently fired as head coach at Memphis and fired in 1988 as offensive coordinator at Alabama), transferred to Memphis.

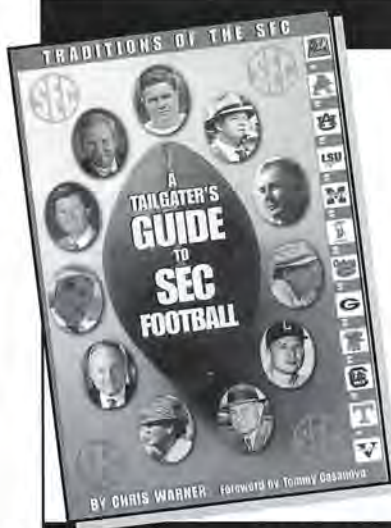
Tide coaches were apparently caught off-guard to some extent. All players had been contacted by their new coaches in the holiday period, but Defensive Line Coach Stan Eggen had been unable to reach Means. He actually went to Memphis to speak with the young lineman and returned thinking Means was ready to proceed academically and athletically at The University.

Because he did not stay at Alabama a full year, Means is subject to very severe transfer penalties, basically the loss of two years of eligibility and playing time. However, Franchione said, "University and athletic officials recommended to the NCAA's National Letter of Intent Committee that Albert receive an unconditional release from all national-letter regulations so that he can transfer to another school without penalty."

The overall NCAA situation is a difficult one for Alabama. In a bizarre twist, at least one prospect was quoted as saying that Franchione told visiting recruits that the worst Alabama expected "is the loss of a few scholarships." It would be odd for a school to capitulate before receiving a letter of inquiry.

Not that anyone expects Alabama to avoid that letter. No one with any sense of history would expect anything less than Alabama to eventually appear before the NCAA Infractions Committee, the group that mishandled Alabama's earlier football transgressions. While the committee no longer includes Richard Swank, the former chairman who was so arrogant in his administration of penalties against Alabama before having to apologize for his committee's mistakes in the matter, it will still be an unpleasant appearance for Alabama.

Both Robbins and Alabama Faculty



A comprehensive book on the SEC

A Tailgater's Guide to SEC Football

by Chris Warner

Foreword by Tommy Casanova

Available at BOOKS-A-MILLION®

or send \$19.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling (\$23.95 total) to:

P.O. Box 44189

Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4189

Shipping for two or more books only \$6.00!

www.sectraditions.com

Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh (ironically, now a member of the Infractions Committee, although he would not be on that side of the table in any dealings with The University) have insisted that Alabama has cooperated fully with the NCAA and have cautioned against panic. But the truth is likely that no one knows what to expect.

Finally, and perhaps most troubling personally to Franchione, was the story in a Houston newspaper chronicling details of a complaint that was filed by two players at TCU, twin brothers, and their parents. They accused Franchione and linebackers coach, Mark Parks of racial harassment. Although the timing of the announcement was not designed to affect Alabama recruiting, it would add to Crimson Tide problems.

Franchione said he addressed his team and prospects on the matter. He said, "I wanted them to know the complaint was investigated and unsubstantiated, and that we will continue working to earn each other's trust and move forward."

"I learned about this complaint during the holiday break after I was gone from TCU. I thought the issue had been resolved. As I told the Houston reporter, I had fully and openly cooperated with a thorough, independent investigation at TCU. When the situation arose, we took it very seriously and addressed it immediately and appropriately. A thorough investigation took place. Later, I cooperated again with representatives of the Office for Civil Rights in Fort Worth."

"The investigations have uncovered no evidence of harassment or discrimination of any sort, and I am confident this situation will be resolved soon."

"I have coached 28 years with a mission of developing people first and football players second. In that spirit, I could not live with myself if I mistreated a person because of race, or for any other reason. I know Coach Parks feels the same way; he has worked with me nine years."

"Our staff works hard to instill a sense of family within our team environment, and that extends to every player and coach, every trainer and equipment manager, everyone involved. One of the joys of the coaching profession is watching young men from every cultural, religious, ethnic, and socio-economic background grow and mature into responsible young adults."

"Our coaching philosophy is built on a foundation of inclusion in a family atmosphere in which coaches care about players as individuals. I do not understand how the two players at TCU came to feel as they did, and I feel badly that they believed they had been mistreated. That hurts."

Franchione and Parks received particularly strong backing from former TCU tailback LaDainian Tomlinson, a Heisman Trophy finalist and most valuable player in this year's Senior Bowl.

Possible Alabama Football Prospects

Here are potential Alabama signees for February 7. Bama expects to sign no more than 23 new players. This list includes the range of number to be signed at each position, the prospects and their hometowns and schools, and the Tide's known competition. It is possible, even likely, that Alabama has some prospects not listed here and that some listed here are not legitimate Bama prospects.

QUARTERBACK (2-3 to be signed)

Brodie Croyle, 6-3, 190, Westbrook Christian in Rainbow City COMMITTED, ENROLLED

Ingle Martin, 6-4, 205, Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville (Fla, UT, Ole Miss)

Spencer Pennington, 6-4, 200, Fayette COMMITTED

TAILBACK (2-4)

Jabari Davis, 6-0, 230, Stone Mountain, Ga. (UT, Ga)

Marquez Dupree, 6-0, 218, Philadelphia, Miss. COMMITTED

Derek Farmer, 6-0, 200, Lee High in Tyler, Texas COMMITTED

Carnell Williams, 6-0, 195, Attalla Etowah (UT, AU)

Keldrick Williams, 5-9, 195, Montgomery Sidney Lanier (NC St, AU)

FULLBACK (1-2)

Eraste Autin, 5-11, 245, Lafayette, La., St. Thomas More (soft Fla commit)

Anthony Baldwin, 6-2, 225, River Ridge, La., John Curtis

Quinton Bowens, 6-0, 250, Killen/East Central Mississippi JC COMMITTED

TIGHT END (2-4)

Donald Clark, 6-5, 255, Boca Raton, Fla., Fort Scott (Kansas) CC COMMITTED

Ben Hall, 6-4, 228, Duncan, S.C., Byrnes (So Car, Clem)

Cedrick Hampton, 6-3, 247, Courtland (UT, So Car)

Clint Johnston, 6-4, 235, Wetumpka COMMITTED

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN (4-6)

J.B. Closner, 6-4, 290, San Antonio, Texas, Clark COMMITTED

Von Ewing, 6-5, 297, Charles Henderson of Troy (UT, Ga)

Atlas Herrion, 6-5, 295, Daphne, Dodge City, Kan., JC SIGNED, ENROLLED

Chris McNeil, 6-4, 290, center, Petal, Miss. (soft commit to Miss. St.)

Mo Mitchell, 6-8, 300, Albany, Ga., Fork Union Prep (Ga, Fla, Clem, AU)

Mark Sanders, 6-7, 305, Ashville (brother of RS freshman punter Matt) COMMITTED

WIDE RECEIVER (2-4)

Brian Bass, 6-1, 185, Fayette, now in baseball school in Florida COMMITTED

Ratavious Biddle, 6-1, 170, Decatur (NC State, UT, UK)

Brandon Brooks, 5-5, 155, Birmingham Shades Valley COMMITTED

Chavez Donnings, 6-0, 190, Tallahassee, Fla., and Butler County (Kan) CC (Kan St, Ark)

Zach Fletcher, 6-3, 195, Moulton/City College of San Francisco (Wash, Wash St)

Ryan Gilbert, 5-11, 180, Dallas, Texas, Hillcrest (TCU, Miami, LSU, Texas Tech)

Pedro Holiday, 6-1, 180, Pepperell in Lindale, Ga. (AU, Ga Tech)

Greg Tinch, 6-3, 220, Westover of Albany, Ga. (Louisville, Marshall; also basketball)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (3-6)

Mark Anderson, 6-4, 225, Tulsa, Okla., Booker T. Washington (Tulsa, Okla St, TCU)

Todd Bates, 6-5, 230, Cleburne County in Heflin (AU, SC, Ga Tech)

McKinley Boykin, 6-2, 260, Birmingham McAdory (AU, USM, Ole Miss)

Antwain Franklin, 6-4, 285, Birmingham Woodlawn (Ole Miss, Ark, AU)

Shaun Smith, 6-3, 308, Wichita, Kansas, and Butler County (South Carolina, AU, Ole Miss)

Justin Tuck, 6-5, 225, Coosa Central in Rockford (ND commit as TE)

Mac Tyler, 6-6, 320, Bessemer, Milford Prep COMMITTED

LINEBACKER (1-2)

Freddie Roach, 6-3, 228, Killen Brooks COMMITTED

LeMarcus Rowell, 6-3, 200, Opelika (AU, LSU, FSU)

DEFENSIVE BACK (3-6)

Reprobatus Bibb, 5-11, 175, Courtland (AU, Ole Miss)

Quentin Burrell, 6-1, 175, Decatur, Ga., SW DeKalb (AU, Clem, Ga)

Roman Harper, 6-1, 180, Prattville (AU, UAB)

Rufus Harris, 5-11, 185, LaPorte, Texas (Texas A&M, Texas, Ariz, LSU)

Doncell Horton, 5-8, 170, Attalla Etowah

Marcus King, 5-11, 180, Irving, Texas, Nimitz (Missouri, Texas Tech)

Anthony Madison, 5-9, 175, Thomasville (Ole Miss commit, AU)

Jarvis Mays, 6-2, 191, Dallas, Texas, Kimball (Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Iowa)

Charlie Peprah, 6-0, 185, Plano, Texas, East (Kansas St, Ark, Ariz St, Tulane)

Bryant Thomas, 6-0, 190, Louisville, Miss. (Ole Miss, USM, Miss St)

KICKING SPECIALIST (0-1)

Mike McLaughlin, 6-2, 190, Gautier, Miss. COMMITTED

Alabama Football Depth Chart By Class

Alabama's football depth chart is more difficult to assess with a new coaching staff and, possibly, new alignments offensively and/or defensively. But here is a guess at where members of the 2001 Alabama football team will be lined up. Remember, this is not an exact depth chart, merely a listing of players by position and class. It is possible, even likely, that some returning players will be at new positions. This chart does not include every player who will be out for spring practice. And our projections of the positions of those prospects who have committed as of January 21 is certainly possible to change. With the exception of Brodie Croyle, incoming freshmen will not be in spring practice.

OFFENSE

	SENIOR	JUNIOR	SOPH	REDSHIRT FRESHMAN	INCOMING FRESHMAN
Split End	McAddley M. James	Collins	Woods Greer	Givens	Bass
Left Tackle	S. Williams	Ellington Baxley			
Left Guard		Stephens	Shoultz	Smiley Martz	
Center		Ephraim Hollingsworth	Ridings (Snapper)	Mathis	
Right Guard		Portis	Alexander Lomax		Closner
Right Tackle		Herrion Raulston		Britt	Mark Sanders
Tight End	T. Jones		D. Clark C. Gilbert	Cavan	Johnston
Quarterback	Zow Richey	Watts		Crouch	Croyle Pennington
Tailback		Galloway	Miree Beard		Farmer Dupree
Fullback		M. Brown T. Sanders Bowens		N. Cox	
Flanker	Milons	Carter Bolden	Luke Fulgham		Brooks
Placekicker	Thomas		Haynes	Ziifle	McLaughlin

DEFENSE

Left End	Monroe	Moorehead	Odom		
Left Tackle	Daniel			Bryant	Tyler
Right Tackle	Hollie	Johnson D. Sanders		G. Clark	
Right End		King Oglesby	McKay-Loescher		
Strongside Linebacker		Rasheed	Daniels	Wortham	
Middle Linebacker	Ellis	Constant	Lowe	Rawls	
Weakside Linebacker	A. Cox D. Gilbert		H. James		Roach
Left Cornerback	Ray		McBride	Hudson	
Right Cornerback		Dixon	Andrews	C. James	
Strong Safety	C. Brown		C. Jones Harris		
Safety	Myles			Ward	
Punter		Bearden		Matt Sanders	



THE ULTIMATE GAME DAY, ANY DAY LUXURY SPORTS CONDOMINIUMS

VISIT OUR NEWLY COMPLETED FURNISHED MODELS
612 13th Avenue at 8th Street and
900 13th Avenue, 600' from Bryant-Denny Stadium

Entertain guests, watch the action from your balcony, or join in the festivities in the Bama Club. It's all just a stone's throw from Bryant Denny Stadium when you own a GAMEDAY CENTER Sports Condominium!

Suites offer professionally coordinated furniture and accessories. Simply walk in and start entertaining! For business, for pleasure, Bama's Gameday Center is the ultimate in sports and year 'round UA accommodations. For floorplans, locations and additional information, call today, 205.366.1680 or 800.693.8204.

- ◆ Management/Optional Rental Program available for your suite
- ◆ Prices from \$80's to \$325,000's
- ◆ Private, assigned parking
- ◆ Owners' Private Club open game days and special weekends
- ◆ Conference room, catering, golf and concierge service



A GAMEDAY CENTERS Southeastern, LLC, Development. Marketed and Developed by Gleneagles Southeastern.

Alabama Football's Detail Man

by Kirk McNair

Charley North has many duties in Tide operations

He says he's a "jack of all trades and master of none," but Charley North appears to be a master of everything around the Alabama football office. His official title is "Director of Football Operations," and that seems to encompass about everything except actual coaching duties.

Good luck in trying to find the "slack time" on North's calendar. "This is about a twelve-and-a-half month job anymore," North said. But, as he said, if he didn't love it, he'd be retired and playing golf everyday.

North is a sure-enough football man and he's put in his time with some of the best. After working in Oklahoma high schools for a dozen years, North joined the staff of Barry Switzer at Oklahoma, where he stayed for 16 years. He then went to Arkansas under Danny Ford for three years. In both instances he was offensive line coach. When Ford, the ex-Alabama player, was fired at Arkansas, North surfaced under Dennis Franchione as director of football operations at TCU. And when Franchione came to Alabama in December, North was by his side.

He calls Franchione "the most organized man I've ever been around." And while North's self-described job includes "staying one step ahead of Coach Fran, trying to anticipate his needs and the needs of all our coaches," he said that Franchione's attention to detail makes it easy. "We all know where we are supposed to be, when we are supposed to be there, and why we are supposed to be there," he said. And while he said he attempts to relieve the head coach of some of his burdens, he notes that Franchione still has a very full plate.

While North is sometimes referred to as Alabama's recruiting coordinator, that is not correct. Indeed, NCAA rules mandate that a recruiting coordinator must be an on-the-field coach, or at least count against the limit of nine assistant coaches. Still, North has his hand in the recruiting process. "I can help organize our on-campus recruiting," North said. "I can't do anything off-campus, but I can evaluate and administer to help our coaches. We have a calendar for making sure



Charley North has plenty of experience in big-time football and he has a big role at Bama as director of football operations.
Barry Fikes Photo

we stay in touch (with prospects). Within a week after signing day, we'll be letting next year's prospects know about our camps and our spring practice dates and so forth."

North said it is Alabama policy to make "everyone feel welcome on campus." He noted that prospects can visit the campus almost anytime, and he wants prospects to come see the campus and practices and college life. He said the watchword of the department is that "Everyone is treated the way you'd want to be treated."

While organization of recruiting operations is high priority, those duties are far from the only tasks

assigned North. He will handle all team travel, make sure of preparations for all aspects of day-to-day operations in the football program, oversee housing and dining hall facilities, account for scholarships, help players find summer employment, and is in charge of the walk-on program.

"Over the years I've done all of that," North said. "But I had never done it all at once before. It takes attention to detail, and we have that thanks to Coach Fran. If you're not organized, it can get away from you."

North intends to "scrutinize" the walk-on program. "We want young men to try out for the football team," he said. "But we will watch that closely. You have to have good

walk-on football players in order to have a quality program, but you don't want to have so many that you don't have time to work them all." He said the Franchione staff will demand much of the walk-ons in practice, and that they—like all Tide players—will get more repetitions than in other programs. "Our practices are designed so that everyone gets 25 to 30 per cent more reps than most others," he said. North said the efficiency of a Franchione practice is legendary, so much so that NFL teams send coaches to watch.

North said being a walk-on at Alabama will be demanding, but that the non-scholarshipped players will be appreciated. And, he said, when possible some will also be rewarded with scholarships.

Like his boss, North believes that the coaching staff is "the keeper of the keys for The University and the people of Alabama." To that end, he said Alabama's football program will have everything allowed in terms of state-of-the-art equipment, coaching, travel, etc.

He said, "Alabama has great tradition and has always been a great program. We'll do all we can to uphold it, and not just in football wins. We're going to have great players, but they are also going to be good students

and an overall fine product when they have finished their careers here." North noted that Franchione historically has disciplined more players for academic deficiencies than for athletics shortcomings.

The 56-year-old North calls himself "the old bull" of the department. He certainly has experience in big-time football. "I tell the coaches I've done everything twice," he said. "The wrong way and the right way. Hopefully I can help them."

But North doesn't push himself on the staff. "We have excellent coaches," he said. "They don't need my help. But if they ask, I'm certainly here for them." He said his door is always open to players and coaches.

North doesn't pretend to miss coaching. He was on the football field for most of his life, as an all-state football and baseball player growing up in Wagoner, Oklahoma, and continuing in both sports and earning all-conference honors as a center at Panhandle State in Oklahoma. After 31 years of coaching, he said, "Not being on the field was pretty hard. But having contact with the coaching staff and being around the players is what I want. And if I can help everyone be the best he can be, that's the fun part. I like

watching the player go from a pup to a great player. And it will happen a lot here."

North liked the men he worked under as a college football assistant, Barry Switzer and Gary Gibbs at Oklahoma and Danny Ford at Arkansas. "I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly," North said. "I was at Oklahoma when we won national championships, and I was also there when we went on probation," he said. "We fought through the probation and had a pretty good program."

He considers Ford one of the best men he has known in football. "I have the highest regard for Danny," North said. "He's an excellent football coach and he's a true gentleman."

While North has nothing but praise for the staff he works with, he said he also has great respect for a number of men he knows from Alabama's former staff. "They are good men and good coaches," he said. "It just didn't work out."

He said he has worked in great programs, "but in a way Alabama stands out. I can remember growing up and being in awe of Alabama. It always had a great ring to it. I'm very fortunate to have been in some class programs, and I'm very fortunate to be at Alabama."

'Bama Watches

Quality components include Citizen® quartz movements. Water resistant with two year warranty. Elite watches packaged in tin gift box. Team watch packaged in tuck box.

'Bama' and 'Elephant' design are available with leather strap or bracelet. Please specify which design when ordering.



Men's

Elite Model - w/oiled leather strap - \$75.95



Women's



Men's

Elite Model - w/stainless steel bracelet - \$79.95



Women's



Team model - w/velcro sport strap - \$39.95



To order by credit card, call:
800-713-2261

To order by mail, send check or money order to:
Bama Watch, PO Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486
Add \$6.95 for ground S&H and 6% sales tax for AL residents.
Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. Rush delivery normally available.

**HANA
TIME**

Pollard Will Carry Out Mandate

by J. E. Lisby

Strength is trademark of a Dennis Franchione team, and Ben Pollard directs that effort

The hiring of Dennis Franchione as head football coach at Alabama was greeted with almost universal enthusiasm by Tide faithful. Fans liked his reputation of turning around troubled programs, his air of easy confidence, his obvious intelligence—and they especially loved his record as a winner wherever he's coached. Plus, for Bama fans longing for a return to physical, smash-mouth football, his success in building strong, well-conditioned teams sealed the deal.

As for that strength issue, Franchione said, "I've never been in the high IQ range, but I've always figured that a 400-pound bench-presser is going to eventually beat a 300-pound bench—if he's got good enough feet and has other things to go with it. We also believe that if there's a great investment in the off season, then it's harder to lose during the fall."

Exuding the quiet manner of a college professor, everything about Coach Fran belies his self-deprecating IQ comment. But his commitment to building physically powerful teams capable of dominating weaker opponents is beyond question. In fact, Franchione's former team, Texas Christian University, received national publicity last fall when an article in *ESPN the Magazine* detailed its extraordinarily successful strength program. When Franchione took over the program, only four TCU football players were able to bench press 400 pounds. By the beginning of last season the Horned Frogs had 55 players (out of 105 reporting) who reached that mark.

That emphasis on improving physically helped TCU to a 10-1 regular season record. And Franchione's right-hand man in accomplishing that task has been Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for Football Ben Pollard. "The expectations are established by Coach Fran," Pollard said. "But there's no doubt that what we did in the weight room made a huge difference. I'm not trying to make weightlifters; I want to build football players. Ultimately, our goals are the

same—for them to be the best football players possible so that we can have the best football team we can have. Success leads to success."

And sometimes that success can also lead to individual recognition off the field. Besides the publicity from the national media, Alabama's new man in charge of football conditioning has been named a finalist for the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Professional of the Year award, given by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

The average weight-room coach is used to working in obscurity. Though grateful for the recognition, Pollard is also slightly embarrassed. But mainly he has been anxious to get started at his new job. "Professionally, this has been probably the best year of my career," he said. "I've had a lot of good things happen and a lot of attention. But it won't be hard to find me for the next six to seven weeks. I expect to be almost living in the weight room. I've always been a 12-hour guy. I open at six and close at six, and whatever needs to be done during that time I'll work to get it done."

Pollard's work ethic was one of the main reasons he wound up coaching at TCU. After graduating with his master's degree from Texas Tech, where he also served as an assistant for several years, Pollard had settled in at Sam Houston State, a Division IAA school. There from working with football only, over the course of nine seasons he had built a comprehensive program involving 15 sports. And when the strength coach at New Mexico chose to remain close to his roots instead of following Franchione to TCU in 1998, Pollard was hired by Franchione and given a mandate to rebuild a poor Horned Frogs conditioning program.

Three years later after working wonders at TCU, Franchione was ready to step up to the highest levels of college football and coach the Crimson Tide. And though Pollard's Texas roots are deep, he was eager to make the move as well. "I

think every coach has his list of dream jobs," he said. "And I would definitely put Alabama at the top of mine. The things that appeal to me are the traditions of The University and the chance to be a part of the SEC. Those are exciting things."

It didn't hurt that for Pollard's wife, Leslie, the move to Tuscaloosa amounts to a homecoming of sorts. Both her parents were graduated from Alabama and now live in the state, and she spent much of her youth in Montgomery.

Conventional wisdom among Alabama fans holds that Pollard and his staff will have their work cut out for them, whipping into shape a badly conditioned and sometimes overweight Tide team. Certainly the debacle masquerading as a 2000 football season generated more than enough criticism to go around, and the Tide's conditioning came in for its fair share.

But interestingly, though noting that the squad still has a long way to go before he's satisfied, Franchione has also made a point of praising the efforts of Terry Jones, who had been responsible for the football team's conditioning. And after examining the program in person, Pollard concurs. "With our coming in the middle of the year, everything's got to happen in a hurry," he said. "But I think the (Alabama) athletes are ahead because they've been training. Terry (Jones) and Steve Martin (assistant strength coach) have done a good job. It's not like the athletes have been doing the wrong things. At previous jobs, including TCU, our athletes weren't training properly and quality use of time just wasn't happening. But that's not the case here."

When returning Tide players were tested in early January, Franchione said there were 18 lifting 400 or more pounds and about 18 others in striking distance of that goal. "We're not where we want to be, but we're not in the depths, either," the coach said.

With every member of the previous staff moving on to other pursuits, it's overkill to engage in after-the-fact criticism. But players and others close to the program tell a story

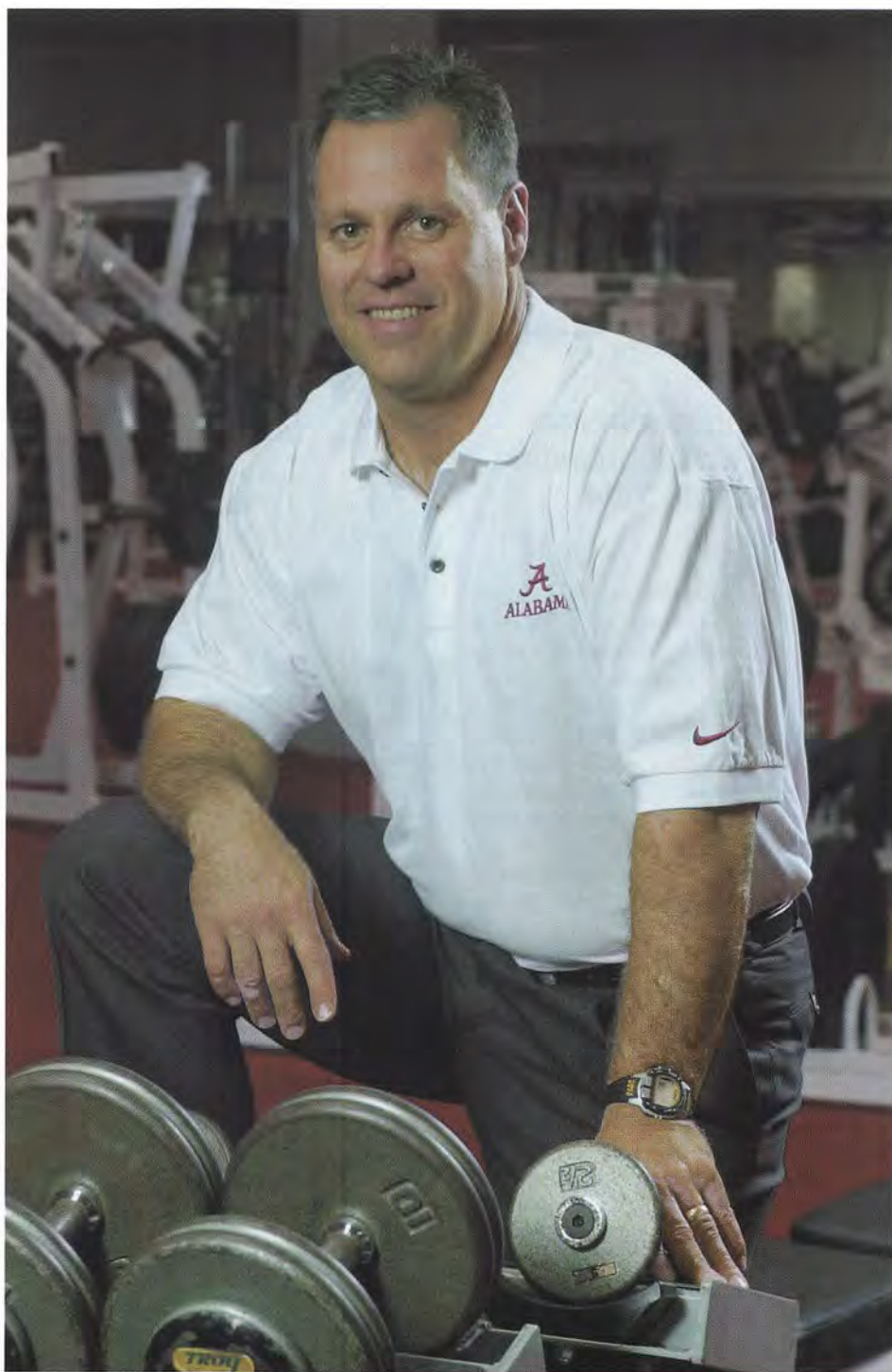
of less-than-energetic support for the weight room by former Head Coach Mike DuBose and many of his assistants. As a whole the team worked hard last off-season, but no one could deny that certain individual players reported overweight. And when target weights were not met, for whatever reason forceful follow-up from the position coaches was not forthcoming. On any team when every player is not held to the same standard, the athletes notice—and players realize what they can get away with.

With Franchione setting the tone from the top, expect changes. “There is an extremely strong emphasis from Coach Fran and the staff regarding what goes on in the weight room,” Pollard said. “It’s not just a passing interest, it’s a true directive; a mandate for the kids to work hard in the weight room and for the staff to challenge the athletes and make them accountable for what happens. My job is made immensely easier because of the support I receive from Coach Fran and his assistants. If a player misses a workout, I report it to the position coach, and they’ll hunt them down and get them in here. And if there’s a problem beyond that, then Coach Fran will get involved personally, which isn’t a good thing. For the athlete’s sake, we try to prevent that.”

Some players enjoy working in the weight room. For the self-motivated players, Pollard says his job is simply to point them in the right direction and then get out of the way. But for others, a more active role is required. “It’s up to me to provide as positive an atmosphere as possible,” Pollard said. “Even if the athlete doesn’t like weight lifting, if he can see results on the field, then he’s motivated. When they can see it transfer to the field, then you’ve got them.”

Pollard likes to divide his best lifters up among the squad, aiming to make peer pressure work in his favor. And he also believes in making competition work for him, preferring to pair athletes competing for the same starting job up as workout partners. “Athletes love a challenge,” Pollard said. “They want to be disciplined, and they want to know that they’re working harder than other people. I don’t think there is a magic formula for any of it. It’s all based on how hard the kids are willing to work. It’s motivation, mainly. (The athletes) need to be challenged on a continual basis by the coaching staff.”

The basic premise is simple. All other things being equal, the squad that is willing to pay the price in the off season is the team



Ben Pollard has been nationally-recognized for his success in developing a strong football team at TCU. Now he’s brought his methods to Alabama. One reason Pollard can help players improve is the backing he gets from the football coaching staff.
Barry Fikes Photo

that will succeed. “We want our players to understand that there are no free lunches; that we have to work for what we want,” Franchione said. “And the first place that you do it on a football team is in the weight room. I’ve always believed that success in August through December is always determined in January through July. If you do a

great job there, then you’ve got a much better chance to have a great season.”

“If your program is set up properly and your athletes are working hard, then they’ll get stronger,” Pollard said. “There’s no magic formula. Start with good kids, and then place a strong emphasis on the weight room. That’ll bring success.”

Erwin Dudley:

Soph Has Worked To Be Star

by Jason Houston

He is adding leadership to scoring and rebounding contributions to Tide

Normally, a sophomore on a major college basketball team is still learning the ropes, finding a role, and hoping to get playing time. Erwin Dudley, however, is no ordinary sophomore. Indeed, he was no ordinary freshman. Dudley has been a starter since his first game at Alabama. Now he is a dominant inside force, and he is developing into a solid leader for the Crimson Tide.

Is it possible for a sophomore to be a leader? Absolutely, Dudley said. "Being young doesn't keep you from being a leader. My role on our team is giving us an inside presence, but I also want to be an example. Even a freshman can lead as long as he goes out and gets the job done."

Dudley has been getting the job done. The 6-8, 240-pound Uniontown native has been doing it since starting his Crimson Tide career, leading Bama in rebounding and ranking among team's top scorers. It's never a surprise when he turns in a double-double, meaning double-digit scoring and rebounding numbers in the same game.

"I think I'm playing pretty good so far this year, but not great," Dudley said. "I think I have improved a whole lot since last year. My free throw percentage has dropped some, but I'm working on that. So far, I'm satisfied with my progress."

"I still have parts of my game that I need

Erwin Dudley ranks among the leaders in the Southeastern Conference in numerous statistics, including scoring, rebounding and shooting percentage. He has worked hard to make himself a better player, and as a sophomore is making a name for himself.

Barry Fikes Photo





to improve, and I will be working on that as the year goes on. If I keep working, I know I can get better."

Dudley is no stranger to leadership. In his final three seasons at R.C. Hatch High School, he started all 80 games. For his high school career, he averaged 23.3 points and 15.0 rebounds per game.

He continued his "iron man" ways in his freshman season at The University. Dudley was the only player for the Crimson Tide to start all 29 games in the 1999-2000 season. He has started every game this season as well, and his combined games started streak stands at over 125. It has been a long time since Erwin Dudley's name has not been called when the first five were announced.

"I didn't expect to start every game coming out of high school," said Dudley, who plays both power forward and center spots. "I knew I could play. I knew I would get some playing time, but I didn't expect to start so early. I just came in and worked hard and did the best I could."

In his freshman campaign, Dudley finished second in the Southeastern Conference in rebounding, and led all other freshmen, with an average of 8.1 rebounds per game. He also averaged 10.3 points and had four double-doubles in rebounding and scoring. His freshman year success (which, incredibly, did not include making Freshman All-SEC) only made him want to work harder.

"Last year, I wasn't nearly as strong as I needed to be," Dudley said. "I came into this season with the goal of being stronger and quicker. I worked on that goal in the off-season to try to prepare myself for this season."

"I worked hard in the weight room in the off-season. I was trying to get stronger, because I knew I needed to be. I lifted weights and jumped rope a lot. It took a lot of hard work. I had a regimen that our strength and conditioning coach (Steve Martin) gave us, and I worked on that really hard. I tried to get as much out of the off-season as I could."



Erwin Dudley is Alabama's inside force. Although he frequently makes his own scoring opportunities with offensive rebounds, Tide Head Coach Mark Gottfried thinks it's important to the team that Bama make every effort to get the ball to his strong sophomore.

Barry Fikes Photo

Head Coach Mark Gottfried is one who has been impressed by Dudley's improvement. "I think Erwin has improved his offensive game a great deal," Gottfried said. "He's gotten stronger and he has gone from 220 to about 240 or 245. But he's improved his abilities in the meantime, so he's not just gotten bigger, but he's gotten more skilled and he's doing a lot more things.

"He's so much better offensively now than he was this time last year. He's really worked on that aspect of his game over the summer. He's worked on his body and he's gotten better."

That "W" word keeps coming up in relation to Irwin Dudley. "Erwin is just a worker," Gottfried continued. "We say that he brings his hard hat and lunch pail every day. He works hard in practice. If you're

guarding him in practice and you're not playing as hard as you can play, he'll embarrass you because of how hard he works every day."

Not only did Dudley grow up physically during the off-season, but he also grew mentally. "We struggled a lot last year," Dudley said. "We had a lot of injuries early. We kept fighting, even though we lost a lot of hard tough games on the road. This year

we wanted to come out and be determined not to let last year repeat itself."

Life on the road is tough for any SEC basketball team. It was very difficult for Bama's young squad last season. Bama didn't win a road game. "Going to all these foreign gyms that we went to last year, like LSU and Mississippi State, was a learning experience. We went to Louisville last year as well, and I don't think I knew how to handle that at that point. This year, I have adapted a little bit. I've aged a little bit and learned a lot."

The early injuries of last year had an impact on Dudley's role on the team. Senior center Jeremy Hays missed all last season with a knee injury, and finally gave up basketball earlier this season due to chronic injuries. His leaving caused Dudley to play two positions.

"Erwin is a power forward that, somewhat by accident, has had to play center for us," Gottfried explained. "He's had to play center because Jeremy Hays was out, and we thought Jeremy was coming back, and we probably hesitated on signing another big guy because we thought we had Jeremy. I think Erwin's done a good job."

The coach said, "One thing about Erwin, he'll fight you as hard as he can fight you, it doesn't matter if he's shorter or playing guys bigger than he is. He'll battle you. And that's why he's had success."

Dudley said, "Jeremy was a great part of our team. He worked hard and he provided scoring and rebounding. He was a valuable part of the team, and I hated to see him go. My role hasn't changed all that much without him, except that I really have to watch

my fouls. I have to still try to be aggressive, but I have to stay in the game."

Being a power forward or center is just a matter of the line-up, Dudley said.

"Sometimes I am the center, but most of the time I am the power forward. It all depends on who is in there. If Gerald [Wallace] is in the game, then I'm the center. If Kenny [Walker] is in the game, then I am the power forward."

Whatever his position, Dudley has developed into a "go-to" player for the Tide. Fellow sophomore Rod Grizzard knows Dudley's value to the team.

"His inside presence is what we've been waiting on," Grizzard said. "If he's scoring, we're going to give it to him."

"He needs the ball more," said Gottfried. "He's a guy who really never takes a bad shot. He does a good job of going and creating his own shot, but we need to do a better job of going to him. For us to win, he needs to play well. He needs to score, and that's what he's doing right now. Last year as a freshman, he just didn't seem ready to score and really know what to do with the ball when he got it. Now he's a sophomore, and he's really the biggest inside threat that we have."

Gottfried added, "If he scores and plays well, we're much better. I think the more we go to him, the more he'll respond."

So far in his young career, Dudley has been undaunted by the challenges of SEC basketball.

"At first, the big crowds made me a little nervous, but I got used to it," Dudley said.

"We had a small gym in high school, but we had people coming in packing the place out and lining the sidelines. I have never played in a big gym like ours, but I've played in front of big crowds. It was kind of an adjustment, but not a big one."

"The SEC has to be the best conference in the country," Dudley said. "You have to prepare yourself every night, because all these teams have great players. No team in the SEC is soft. Everybody has talent and is capable of winning. You have to prepare yourself daily and come in and concentrate and focus day by day."

Dudley and the team have high goals for themselves.

"We want to go as far as we can," Dudley said. "We want to go to the NCAA. We want to go as far as we can in the SEC and NCAA tournaments. We want to do all of that, and we just want to play hard and have fun with it and do the best we can."

"Personally, I want to win at least a couple of SEC Championships before I leave, and hopefully an NCAA championship," said Dudley. "After my college career, I would love to play in the NBA. If that doesn't work out, I'd love to play overseas somewhere, just to be playing basketball. If I can't, then I'll always have my degree and can get a job."

Dudley has already achieved success off the floor, according to his coach.

"Well, you're just not going to find anybody a whole lot better than Erwin as a person," Gottfried said. "He's humble; he's down to earth. He's just a joy to coach and we hope for great things for him all the way through."



2514 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 752-6222
(800) 579 TIDE

e-mail:
dtgallery@mindspring.com
www.thedowntowngallery.com



"Coach Bryant with Lee Roy Jordan"

TWO WINNERS

by Daniel Moore

Image Size
13" x 16.25"

Unframed Print - \$55.00

Framed Print - \$145.00
(Cherry frame, double matted)

Add \$10 S&H unframed

Add \$15 S&H framed

Alabama residents must add 8% sales tax.

All The News Seems To Be Good

by Donna Fromme

Both men and women are championship contenders

After years of wishing for a home course, the Alabama men's and women's golf teams are celebrating the openings of two new quality local courses. Even better, recent Crimson Tide play has been its best in years. Alabama has become a contender both in men's and women's golf.

The men won two of five fall tournaments and finished in the top four in two other tournaments. Bama won the College of Charleston Invitational and the Hillman Robbins Memorial in Memphis, finished fourth in the Minnesota Invitational, was third in the Stanford Invitational, and ninth in its own Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate, a tournament exceeded in prestige only by the NCAA Tournament.

The women flirted with the championships of two fall tournaments as they finished in the top four twice in four events. Alabama finished third of 12 teams in a special tournament pitting Southeastern Conference teams against Atlantic Coast Conference squads in a fall tournament at Destin, Florida, then finished fourth of 12 teams over the prestigious Pine Needles course in North Carolina. The Tide women were sixth of 12 teams in the fall season-opener at Auburn, 11th in their worst showing at the Legends Shoot-Out in Indiana.

College golf has a long break between the fall season and the spring season, which begins in February. In recent years the fall season has gained in importance in college rankings as teams attempt to play their way into the NCAA Tournament.

Coach Dick Spybey's Alabama men's team hits the course first, Bama's traditional start in the Gator Invitational at Gainesville, Florida, February 10-11. Spybey will be in a difficult, yet enviable, position as he picks his team each week. This year Bama has depth and talent on the men's squad.

Three of his selections are usually a given.

They include two-time junior college national champion Nick Rousey, NCAA tournament participant Are Larsen, and former Future Masters champion Wesley Pate. But the final two spots each week can be filled with other proven players, including freshman Lars Brovold of Norway, senior Lee Davis of Thomasville, and sophomore Nic Balanis of Valdosta, Georgia.

Other members of the squad include senior Freeman Fite of Anniston; junior Drew Eller of Old Hickory, Tennessee; sophomores Austin Hynson of Mobile, Whit Kilgore of Pell City, Wes Vance of Gadsden, and Bruce Chambers of South Africa; and freshman Karl Nyblom of Sweden.

High expectations followed Rousey, a Pensacola native, to Tuscaloosa. At Central Alabama Junior College he made golf history as the first back-to-back national champion. In fact, he won 10 of 11 tournaments in which he participated as a junior college performer. He also participated in the 1999 United States Amateur Championship.

Rousey has yet to win a tournament at Bama, but it seems only a matter of time. Alabama counted all 15 of his rounds in the fall. [In college golf, a team ordinarily has five players and each day the cumulative best four players' rounds are counted.] He was the team's low stroke leader, averaging 71.13 in five tournaments. He finished two tournaments under par and had eight under par rounds, including a 68. He finished no worse than tenth in any tournament.

Larsen, who was Bama's number one player before the arrival of Rousey, had 13 of 15 rounds count in the Tide's fall play. He qualified to play in the 1999 NCAA Tournament and then averaged 72.8 in the fall. He is also from Norway.

Pate is the question mark among the dynamic trio. While playing basketball over the Christmas break, Pate fractured his right ankle. Although the ankle is on the mend, it is not known if he will be ready to return for the opening tournament. Last fall he averaged 73.87 and 13 of his 15 rounds were counted in tournament play. Pate, from Pensacola, is the son of Alabama's most famous golfer, Jerry Pate.

It is possible that Spybey will use intrasquad matches to allow the players to earn tournament playing spots because the Tide has a number of players capable of championship performance.

Rousey thinks Bama will be able to put a

top squad on the course each week, in part because of good chemistry. "You have to have good team chemistry," said Rousey. "Everybody has to get along. This is one of the best teams I've been on as far as chemistry. We all get along. We can joke around with each other. And everybody pushes each other. Everybody is out there practicing. And when somebody's not, the others are asking him why. The guys on this team are always motivating each other. Part of being a championship team is believing in each other and motivating each other, and this team does that."

While competition ends in late fall and doesn't resume until February, that doesn't mean the players quit working, Rousey said. "Even before we had our first team practices of the spring [semester], you could tell that the guys practiced hard over break. Everybody seems real motivated because we had a better fall season. I do think this team is moving in the right direction. Everybody wants to play. Nobody wants to sit out. We all want to play a part in our success."

The return to play begins in Gainesville for the Tide women as well as Bama opens the spring portion of the season February 23 at the Lady Gator Invitational. While Coach Betty Palmer's charges didn't win a fall championship, the Bama women were in contention.

"We were in contention in three of the four fall tournaments," said Palmer. "We were about half a round away from winning. We were always in contention after 36 holes. We were just missing the last rounds. That's our primary goal for spring, to be a 54-hole team."

Leading the way for the Tide women has been junior Sarah Johnston with her 73.58 stroke average in the fall. Johnston, a Benton, Louisiana, native who followed older sister Elizabeth to the Alabama golf team, has been burning up the leader board. She, too, hasn't finished worse than 10th in a tournament this season, flirting with a championship at the Legends Shoot-Out where she finished second with scores that included a 66 in the opening round. Johnston finished fifth at Auburn and in the ACC-SEC Shootout, and she finished 10th at the Pine Needles Invitational.

In early January, Johnston finished fifth at the 46th annual Harder Hall Invitational, an

amateur event which features some of the top amateur and collegiate golfers from around the country. Her finish there moved her up to seventh in the U.S. Women's Amateur rankings, from which the Curtis Cup team is chosen.

"I can't be more proud of how well Sarah is playing right now," said Palmer following Johnston's performance. "Since last summer Sarah has put her entire game together. She has been especially strong in the mental aspects and that has been one of the keys to her success."

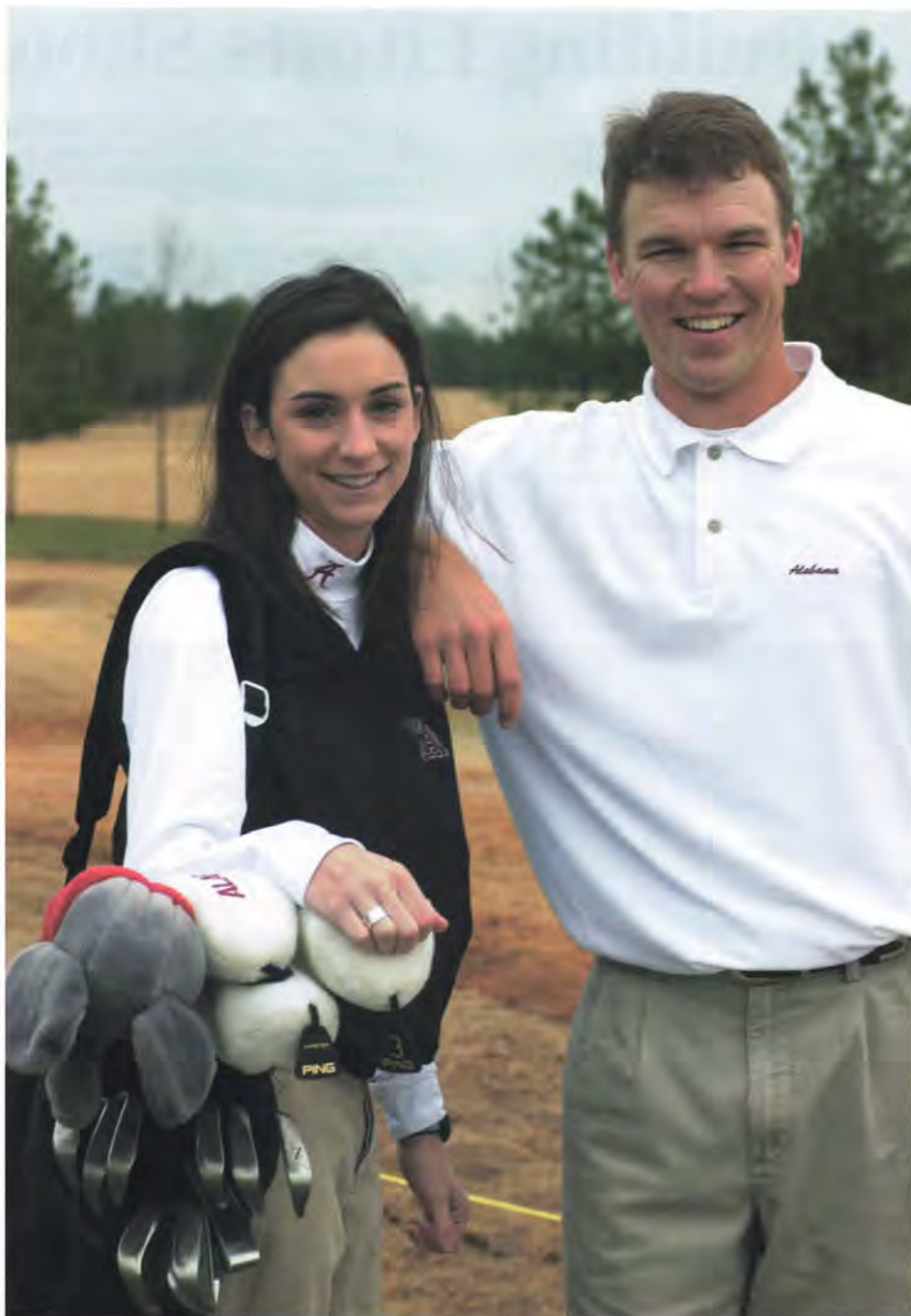
Among the mental aspects that Johnston has shown strength in is her ability to play each hole. In one fall tournament, Johnston bogeyed back-to-back holes. Unrattled, she followed those two holes with back-to-back birdies.

Alabama counted all 12 of her rounds as it counted all 12 of senior Paula Carter's rounds. Carter, a Paris, Tennessee, native, brings a 75.08 season stroke average into the spring. And in her four tournaments in the fall she had two top 10 finishes.

Carter has had a lot to overcome to be a top player. She has had three shoulder surgeries in her first three years of college. Palmer said Carter has continued to rebound from the setbacks that include her not being able to swing a club for a month or two after each operation. And, Palmer said, "You wouldn't know it by her scores, but Paula still goes through a lot. When it's cold or wet weather, she's in pain, and to carry a 25-pound bag over the course of a couple miles and swing, and play...talk about maturity. I have lot of admiration for her strength and courage and in the way she's able to endure the rounds in the physical pain she's in, and still come up with good scores."

Joining the pair in Alabama's lineup in all four of its tournaments was sophomore Allison Akin, a native of Bill Clinton's childhood hometown of Hope, Arkansas. Akin averaged 79.17 in the fall, producing two top 30 finishes, including placing 26th at the Pine Needles Invitational.

Four other women alternated in Alabama's fall lineup. Anna Strandberg (78.0) of Sweden and Lacy Shelton (79.44) of Fort Payne both competed in three tournaments; Mandy Tedder (81.83) of Watkinsville, Georgia, was in two tournaments; and Erica Boozman (84.33) of Natchitoches, Louisiana, competed in one tournament. Alabama counted all nine of Strandberg's rounds and Palmer was pleased to see the freshman produce a 19th place finish at the ACC-SEC challenge in her college debut.



Alabama's golf teams are led by players who have had great success, juniors Sarah Johnston and Nick Rousey. The Tide is also pleased to have new golf facilities this year.
Barry Fikes Photo

Other candidates are sophomore Jenny Bouvin of Sweden and freshman Jordan Daniel of Charleston, South Carolina.

Palmer said, "Our motto has been 'Preparation.' If you prepare properly then you have a pretty good chance of being productive."

"And with the addition of Ol' Colony and the Capstone Club I can only believe that our two golf programs are going to move very strongly up the ladder. We've already

seen that based on the history of schools with Capstone Club. If you look at the rankings the year before and the year after they've opened those facilities at the other schools, there's a significant jump. Obviously we hope the same will hold true for us. The practice areas at both facilities are such that it will be exciting to go to both of those courses. I truly believe these are going to be an asset to our men's and women's programs."

Building Efforts Should Pay Off

by Andrew Varble II

Both men and women gained experience in 2000

As the dual match season draws near, moving up in the ranks are the main focus of both the Alabama men's and women's tennis teams. Men's Head Coach Adam Steinberg and Women's Head Coach Jenny Mainz have their troops primed after a summer and fall of intense preparation and competition. The task won't be easy. As is the case with many college sports, the Southeastern Conference is the toughest in the nation in both men's and women's tennis.

It is an exciting time for the Alabama women's tennis team. After spending the last two years in a rebuilding process, the Crimson Tide appears ready to reap the rewards of intense labor.

"I think we had a better team than we showed last year," Mainz said. "We had many opportunities to step up and move this program into the middle of the SEC pack, but didn't capitalize on them. We were lacking leadership and maturity, both of which we have improved upon. We are now equipped to create more of a presence in the SEC."

The last two seasons saw Alabama's base, the freshmen of 1998 along with redshirt junior Selia Mathew and redshirt senior Dominique Glinzler, gain valuable experience. Playing together in the SEC for the past two seasons has made the five individu-

als who make up the core of Alabama's lineup better in every aspect of the game.

Handling the pressure of SEC tennis and playing at that level has become second nature. The competition has raised the level of each player's game. It has also focused the team's plans and desires for the coming season.

"The goals are more defined, the vision more vivid," Mainz said. "We will be a much more competitive team this year due to gains in maturity and experience. The team has raised the expectations and better understands the commitment involved in meeting our goals and taking this program to greater heights. This team is better prepared to produce under pressure as a result of living through the peaks and valleys of last season."

The difference Alabama's two-year trial by



Expected to lead Alabama's tennis fortunes this year are, top, Jenny Ketchum, and, bottom, left to right, Emmanuelle Berard, Millie Begovic, Christian Brodersen, Maxim Belski and Susheel Narla.

Barry Fikes Photo

fire has made is that things that were hopes a year ago are realistic goals this season. Alabama seems to have the tools, the confidence and the fire, and on the team there is a belief that the time is now for this squad.

"We've been hopeful in the past going into the season about our goals," Mainz said. "This year we are ready to make it happen. Our expectations are higher and our development is farther along. We are prepared to compete with the toughest. We have the tools to move up in the SEC and the South Region. It's time for us to be top eight in the region and top 40 in the nation."

One of the things that will make a difference in the Tide's fortunes this year is a change in the women's collegiate tennis format. This season, doubles will be played first and the three positions will be played as eight-game pro sets. The school that wins two of the three doubles matches will receive one doubles point. The overall match will be a best of seven contest now, with each singles point counting as one.

"Doubles is going to be critical this year," Mainz explains. "It gives us a chance to come out and play aggressively from the start. Teams that come out on fire will earn a definite advantage. I am an advocate of this new format. I feel it will be conducive to the style of play I coach and the personalities of the players on our team."

Mainz brings a true passion to doubles as a former doubles standout at Houston. One of her strengths as a coach is doubles, an indication this change in format is good for Bama.

Another positive step in the right direction for Alabama is the addition of a standout who possesses the ability to lead the Tide with a powerful game. Emmanuelle Berard joins Mainz's program from her native France. At 5-11, she has the size, strength and court smarts to be an impact not only on the Crimson Tide, but also in the SEC.

The key to Berard this season will be the refinement of her power game. Already in possession of a screaming serve and powerful forehand, Mainz and her staff will be working to give this serve and volley ace a more all-court game.

Berard is coming in on the heels of last year's rookies, Millie Begovic and Stefanie Leung, both of whom will make their presence felt even more this season.

Begovic played at number three in last year's singles lineup and produced an 11-9 dual match record, very good for a freshman playing in the top half of an SEC lineup. In addition to a big all-court game, Begovic brings leadership to the squad despite her relative youth.

Leung is even a bit younger, in terms of her Crimson Tide career, than Begovic. She joined Alabama in time for the spring semester last season. She was able to make a quick adjustment and garnered some playing time toward the end of the dual match season. Leung, more than any other player

on the Tide's 2000-01 squad, has the ability through great quickness coupled with great strength to overwhelm her opponents.

Alabama's core, its four-player junior class, has come of age in time for this season. All the lumps, lessons, triumphs and defeats have taught them how to win at this level. For them, while learning will always be a constant, school is out and it is time to go to work.

Becca Baum made the most progress of any of the juniors during the off-season. Five weeks spent playing in Europe and a summer playing as much as possible have made a tremendous difference in her game and her confidence.

Jenny Ketchum spent last season playing tough at number four. This year, Mainz looks to move the junior up into the top half of Alabama's singles lineup. Ketchum has the kind of game that is guaranteed to give her opponents fits.

Weyli Chang spent her sophomore season playing number one for the Crimson Tide. This season she should be able to put that experience to good use. Chang also has the potential to be a standout doubles player in the Tide's lineup.

In her fourth year as part of the Tide's lineup, Selia Mathew gives the team a rock in the middle of its lineup. Mainz sites Mathew's increased confidence combined with what she terms "lethal" groundstrokes to make her more of a factor this season. Her groundstrokes allow her to control the court from the baseline.

Dominique Glinzler is the veteran of the squad. She is in her fifth year at Alabama. In addition to bringing a great deal of experience and knowledge to the team, she is a tenacious, "grind it out" player, who is unwilling to yield.

Unquestionably, Alabama's women's tennis team is much-improved. The depth, talent and, most importantly, the experience, indicate that this team is ready to take it to another level. In addition to an always-tortuous SEC schedule, Alabama is playing Northwestern, Alabama-Birmingham, Florida State and Houston.

The message is clear for Alabama men's tennis 2001. From Head Coach Adam Steinberg and Assistant Tad Berkowitz all the way down to the newest members of the Crimson Tide squad, the goal is to get back to the NCAA tournament.

In college tennis, an abbreviated fall schedule is actually a series of tournaments featuring individual play, not team play. However, Alabama begins putting in the team aspect in the fall with team practices and players having camaraderie off the court. Talk among players last fall was frequently about making it back to the NCAA Tournament. However, with the beginning of dual match play in late January, Bama will begin the journey it hopes leads to late May activity in Athens, Georgia, the site of the

NCAA Championships.

After a lackluster season riddled with injuries in 2000, the Tide was left out of the NCAA team championship tournament for the first time since 1995, and, thus, for the first time in Steinberg's tenure at Alabama.

"Our performance last season was extremely disappointing and unacceptable," Steinberg said. "We had a lot of injuries, and a lot of young guys playing in higher spots than they should have been."

Even under those circumstances, Steinberg makes no excuses about his team's performance last year. He understands the expectations for athletics at The University. Steinberg said, "We understand that expectations are high for all of us at Alabama. That's one reason I love it here."

The experience of 2000 now serves as a stepping stone. Players who were considered to be playing over their heads last season are suddenly seen as battle-tested veterans who have been through the wars of the SEC.

Susheel Narla and Chris McRae have been tapped as co-captains of the 2001 squad. Narla, a senior, and McRae, a junior, are both entering their third seasons of action for the Tide, and each has unique aspects of performance and leadership to bring to the underclassmen.

Supporting the efforts of the leadership and skill brought by the captains is a returning class of six sophomores who were involved in dual play for the Tide last year. The standout of that group, Max Belski, hopes to follow up his All-SEC performance of 2000 with another stellar season for Alabama. Belski, ranked number 25 nationally in fall pre-season singles standings, will likely play in the number one singles spot in dual play for the Tide.

Although the team's overall performance was less than desirable in 2000, there were flashes, notably a win over Georgia, then ranked number 22 in the nation, provided a glimpse of what Steinberg hopes will become a regular occurrence in 2001.

"Our young guys really grew up last year," Steinberg said. "They are more mature and they know what its like playing SEC tennis. They are not just 'showing up' for practice every day; they're focused, intense and working hard. They practice with a purpose and a sense of meaning now."

Those young guys in addition to Belski are Alfonso Perez, William Boyles, Tom Givan, Brian Isern and Brad Friedman. Newcomers are Michael Ray Pallares and Christian Brodersen. Pallares is a sophomore who played for Louisiana-Lafayette in 2000.

Steinberg has been to every NCAA Championship Tournament since his freshman year in college. He will be there again this year, and hopes that he'll be more than a spectator. He wants to be coaching his Crimson Tide team. "I really want our team to experience the excitement of Athens and the NCAA championships," Steinberg said. "Our goal is to get to Athens."

Tiders Working Hard To Recover

by J. E. Lisby

Bama's 2000 football team was hit hard by injuries; most expected to return

Numerous factors are considered in predicting a football team's success, or lack thereof; and one of the most critical of those factors is injuries. Winning at the highest level of college football is a tough proposition at best, all but impossible when breaks go against. For example, few would argue that Tennessee was the most talented team in 1998, but a key injury to Florida State's starting quarterback before the championship game was an obstacle even the mighty Seminoles couldn't overcome. On the other side, Oklahoma was fortunate not to lose a single starter to injury last season, and the Sooners rode that lucky streak to the 2000 national championship.

A lot of things went wrong for Alabama in 2000. No one is suggesting that bad luck alone led to that final 3-8 record, but there's also no question that injuries played a part. Just consider. Kindal Moorehead, the team's most effective defender, was lost before the season even began, while Bama's most consistent offensive weapon, Terry Jones, went down in game five. In fact almost a fifth of the Tide's scholarship athletes missed significant time during the season due to injury.

Every team, including Alabama, emphasizes off-season conditioning as a hedge against injury. But even the best-conditioned athletes can fall prey, and usually there's no predicting when. "A lot of times it's a mystery as to why it happens," said Rodney Brown, Alabama's head football trainer. "It's the same move they've made a thousand times before, but then, that one time, for whatever reason, it goes."

Brown supervises a staff of trainers who, along with the team doctors, work to keep the more than 150 football athletes healthy and performing on the field. But unfortunately for the team (and Alabama fans), 2000 was a busy year for the Tide medical staff.

Even before the opening game, All-Southeastern Conference defensive end Kindal Moorehead was lost for the season when his Achilles tendon snapped during a pre-season scrimmage. "I heard it pop," Moorehead said. "My heel was tingling like it had gone to sleep. There was no pain, but I didn't have any strength in the leg."

If not treated properly, an Achilles tendon tear can cripple. But with proper surgery and rehabilitation, even large and powerful ath-

letes like Moorehead can expect to make full recovery. "You don't necessarily lose a step," said Terry Jones, a strength and conditioning coach for Alabama who tore both his Achilles tendons while playing for the Green Bay Packers. "I talked to Kindal and told him it shouldn't interfere with his career. He'll really have a new tendon back there. Mine are fine. The soreness I have now is from my knees, but my Achilles tendons don't bother me."

Brown reports that though he may be limited, Moorehead will be able to take part in spring practice. And the junior lineman agrees. "My rehab is going well, and I think I'm ahead of schedule," Moorehead said. "When spring training gets here, if I'm ready, I'll go. But come August it'll be full speed ahead; ready to go."

Though the decision to hold him out for the year wasn't actually made until several weeks into the season, Santonio Beard also sustained his injuries in the pre-season. After spring practice last season an old high school knee injury was discovered to have healed improperly, resulting in surgery for the speedy tailback. Just when he was close to full speed again, Beard dislocated his shoulder during August practice.

That injury halted the coaches' plan to feature Beard's speed and receiving ability out of the backfield in the Tide offense. But the Nashville native plans on taking up where he left off very soon. "His ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury is healed," Brown said. "He could have played last year with it, but then his shoulder problem delayed his return until October. So the decision was made to hold him out to preserve his redshirt year. But Santonio is fine; he's there. We're just continuing some supplemental training on his shoulder to keep it strong."

A true freshman expected to contend for playing time at outside linebacker, Jason Rawls was lost for the season to his own ACL injury versus Vanderbilt. "Luckily, that was just the second game of the year so he was able to apply for a redshirt," Brown said. "His rehab is going very, very well. He's pretty much doing everything right now, and he's dead on schedule for the spring."

Rawls tore his ACL doing mop-up work against the Commodores, but Tyler Watts went down just when he had gained the starting job at quarterback. After performing well enough to help his team to victory over South Carolina, Watts was named to start against Ole Miss. But his tenure in the starting role was cut short early in the first quarter, when his knee gave way during a simple rollout run. "Actually, the majority of ACL injuries are non-contact," Brown said. "It's usually from making a cut or a pivot. It's that sudden deceleration with a twist that over-stresses the ligament and tears it."

It was a tough blow for the young quarterback to absorb, but Watts immediately threw himself into his rehab work and expects to be back by spring—just in time to showcase his talent for the new coaching staff. "Right now I'm just waiting on the knee to get stronger," Watts said. "That's the only thing holding me back. But I'm moving very well, and I really feel good. I should definitely be back by spring, hopefully as soon as February."

Along with Moorehead, Rawls and Watts, Terry Jones was the last member of a regular workout group that from last October has met every afternoon in the training room to rehabilitate injuries. Considered by many NFL scouts to be the top pro prospect on last year's Alabama squad, Jones was coming into his own at tight end. Already a devastating blocker, he had developed soft hands to become a receiving threat as well.

But after taking a screen pass for a 26-yard gain down the sideline versus South Carolina, the Tuscaloosa native suffered the second ACL tear of his career on what was really a simple tackle going out of bounds. "The guy just grabbed me on my shoulder pads," Jones said. "He didn't even hit my knee at all. But for some reason it didn't give way. I hurt my other knee (playing basketball) in high school, so I knew what had happened."

Having a father (Terry Jones, Sr.) with extensive experience in sports and injury rehabilitation helps, but Jones is proving to be a quick healer. "In addition to tearing his ACL, he also dislocated his kneecap," Brown said. "So we had to go a little slower with him the first week or so, but that was all. Having had that injury before, he knew what to expect. But like the others, Terry is doing very well. I couldn't be more pleased, and he'll be ready to go by spring practice."

That is a good thing, because Jones is determined to prove to Coach Dennis Franchione and the offensive coaches that they should feature the tight end in next year's new Tide offense. "This is a new millennium," Jones said. "You can't just run the ball anymore. Being able to block and catch the ball just ups the ante for me."

Kenny King's injury eventually wound up ending his season. But when the Tide's starting defensive end first hurt his shoulder, he and the medical staff hoped they could make it through the year. Brown said, "His was a recurring brachial plexus injury—what athletes call 'stingers.' With a stinger, nerves can be pinched or they can be stretched, which can cause sensory changes. You get numbness, tingling; and you get muscle weakness because the nerve is inflamed."

Actually, stingers are commonplace among football players, but King's case turned out



Upcoming senior tight end Terry Jones has made a good recovery from the knee injury that ended his season midway through 2000.

Barry Fikes Photo

to be severe. "He'd lose some strength for awhile; we'd set him down; treat him; rehab him; and get him back up," Brown said. "But it just kept on. We'd get him better and the nerve would be functioning okay, but then he'd take another lick and the problem would come back."

Finally, when the same problem ended what to that point was an outstanding effort versus LSU, the decision was made to sit

him down for the season. To a degree, these injuries never completely heal, and it's likely that King will have to be careful of his shoulder for the rest of his career. Besides rest to allow the inflamed nerve to heal, rigorous exercises to strengthen the entire shoulder are prescribed as a preventative measure. "After sitting him down for a time, we're back doing heavy lifting now," Brown said. "He's also on target for the spring."

Besides those with season-ending injuries, the list of athletes that missed game time but were able to return to action during the year was also significant.

On the offensive side of the ball, Dennis Alexander had earned a starting job at guard in August, only to lose it almost immediately to a strained medial collateral ligament in his knee. After missing several games Alexander returned to the field but never seemed to play himself fully into shape.

During August practice the coaches spoke of Triandos Luke as perhaps the best of a talented group of freshmen receivers, but a broken hand delayed his debut. Though healthy now, he never got untracked after his return at mid-season.

Freddie Milons strained a knee ligament in practice, which severely limited his effectiveness. He's healthy now, but for numerous games in the latter half of the season "Fast Freddie" was without that explosive burst of speed that is his trademark.

On defense, Adam Cox was hampered early in the season by chronic shoulder problems, but improved as the season went along. That was due to rigorous rehabilitation under Brown's supervision. Cox will contend for a starting job at outside linebacker.

Injuries and academic problems to his teammates handed walk-on defensive tackle David Daniel a starting job in mid-season, but trauma from a harrowing car accident plagued him for the last few games.

An old wrist injury originally suffered in high school sidelined cornerback Gerald Dixon in mid-season. Though limited by the pain, he returned wearing a splint to help out as a backup. After undergoing surgery in January, Dixon should be able to take part in spring work though he may be limited to non-contact drills.

Though only a backup cornerback, Shontua Ray has played a valuable role on special teams for the Tide. In addition to his job as gunner covering punts and kickoffs, he had taken over Milons' spot returning kickoffs before a broken hand suffered against LSU ended that work. However, after being fitted with a cast, Ray returned to action in the second half, finishing up the season as well.

Though re-injured in practice during the season, Marvin Constant actually is still suffering from the devastating damage done to his knee while helping to make the game-saving tackle versus LSU. "Marvin had just a horrible knee injury," Brown said. "ACL, MCL, patellar tendon—and he badly damaged the cartilage as well. It was just very, very bad—actually, the worst one I've ever had to rehab."

Another round of surgery has repaired the latest cartilage damage to Constant's knee, relieving the pain and allowing him to continue his rehab efforts. However, given the severity of the original injury, his return at linebacker for the Tide would have to be termed problematic at best.

BAMA SCORECARD

Early Rankings

One might think that Alabama football, coming off a 3-8 season that resulted in a firing of the coaching staff and under fire on several fronts, might not get much consideration for the 2001 football season.

But the early rankings aren't overlooking Bama.

Matt Hayes, writing in *The Sporting News*, didn't wait long after this year's national championship game to offer a prediction of which teams might make it to next season's title contest in the Rose Bowl. His preseason top ten:

1. Miami, 2. Florida, 3. Oklahoma, 4. Florida State, 5. Texas, 6. Alabama, 7. Nebraska, 8. Tennessee, 9. Georgia Tech, 10. Oregon State.

Here's what he had to say about Alabama:

"Don't laugh. The Tide doesn't lose much and adds a terrific coach in Dennis Franchione. Alabama was one of the nation's most talented teams, but couldn't get untracked with a dysfunctional, bickering coaching staff. A fresh attitude and a new perspective will do wonders in Tuscaloosa in 2001, as will the resurgence of electric wide receiver Freddie Milons."

Reprimands

Although the behavior of Alabama basketball star Rod Grizzard following Bama's win over LSU in Baton Rouge cannot be excused, it can be explained. From the time Alabama's team arrived on the court for pre-game warm-ups, LSU student hecklers harassed the Bama players, including remarks that would be taken to be racist. When Alabama ended its 15-game road losing streak with an 82-73 win over LSU, Grizzard—who said he also remembered LSU players taunting Alabama fans following LSU's 93-60 rout of the Tide in Tuscaloosa last year, jumped on the press table in front of the offending LSU students for payback.

It was the wrong thing to do, and that was acknowledged by Grizzard and by Tide Head Coach Mark Gottfried.

LSU Coach John Brady went ballistic. He accused Alabama players and coaches of calling him names, then in the post-game press conference called Tide players "jerks" and said they were a reflection of their coach.

The Southeastern Conference commissioner responded by issuing letters of reprimand to both the sophomore Grizzard and the sophomoric Brady. Gottfried said he didn't agree with the reprimand for his player, but said he, Grizzard and the team accepted it and supported the SEC. Brady, on the other hand, dismissed the reprimand as meaningless and said after reading the letter from the commissioner he wadded it up and threw it in the waste basket.

Bad mistake.

The commissioner, Roy Kramer, responded with a blistering second letter, this one promising to suspend Brady, without possi-

bility of appeal, for three games if he misbehaved again. Expect Brady's temper to be challenged when LSU visits Coleman Coliseum on February 3.

Soft Schedule

Alabama's men's basketball team forged a nice record prior to the start of SEC play this year, but it was no secret that Bama played one of the weakest schedules of any team in the nation. Head Coach Mark Gottfried acknowledged that, but also defended the schedule as one needed for such a young basketball team.

Meanwhile, some teams warmed up for conference play with difficult schedules. One such team was Georgia, coached by Gottfried's good friend and old boss at UCLA, Jim Harrick. Harrick, whose team went 7-6 in non-conference games, said, "I need to attend the Mark Gottfried clinic on how to schedule."

Ross In New Role

Randy Ross has assumed the newly-created position of High School Relations Coordinator for the Crimson Tide athletics department.

In making the appointment, Athletics Director Mal Moore said, "We have identified a need to improve our relationship with the high school coaches within the state of Alabama and I can think of no better person to fill that position than Randy Ross. He has extensive high school coaching experience in Alabama and is familiar with many of the state's outstanding high school coaches. His relationship with those coaches will be a valuable asset for our athletics programs."

In his new capacity, Ross will function as the department's liaison with high school coaches in the state and will coordinate all clinics and camps for the athletic department.

An 11-year veteran of the Crimson Tide athletics department, Ross served as recruiting coordinator from 1990-97 and in 1998 added responsibilities as director of Football Operations. In 1999, he moved into the newly-formed Athletics Development office.

He spent 13 years coaching on the high school level in Alabama before moving to the collegiate ranks in 1987 as quarterback coach at Vanderbilt. He moved back to Alabama in 1990 with the arrival of Gene Stallings.

Ross is a graduate of Boaz High School and St. Bernard College.

Where Is Stabler?

In mid-January, the Pro Football Hall of Fame listed a 15-man roster of finalists being considered for the Class of 2001.

The name of Kenny "Snake" Stabler was once again missing.

After making the finalists' list for two consecutive years (1990 and 1991), the former quarterback great of the Oakland Raiders has

not made the list. There are no quarterbacks on this year's list which does include tight end Dave Casper, a teammate of Stabler's in Oakland.

Stabler was a star performer for Alabama before going on to greatness in the National Football League, leading Oakland to the Super Bowl championship and setting the standard for passing accuracy. He is now the color commentator on Alabama football radio broadcasts.

Not Much Respect

Last year, Alabama's baseball team was among the favorites to advance to Omaha, Nebraska, and, perhaps, win the College World Series. This year Bama is considered to be one of the weak sisters of the Southeastern Conference. Not surprisingly, LSU, the defending national champion, is the favorite to win this year's SEC title as voted by the league's coaches. Alabama (41-24 overall, 16-14 in the SEC in 2000) is picked to finish fourth in the SEC Western Division. The Crimson Tide was the preseason favorite to win the SEC West in 2000 and finished fourth.

In the overall SEC Champion vote, LSU received nine of the 12 championship votes in the poll, while Florida received three.

LSU was the predicted winner in the Western Division with a total of 69 points. Mississippi State was second with 53 while Auburn finished third with 48, Alabama fourth with 42. Florida was picked to win the East.

The 2001 season gets started in early February with the conference schedule set to begin the weekend of March 9. The 2001 SEC Tournament will be held May 16-20 at the Hoover Metropolitan Stadium in Birmingham.

National Rankings

If Alabama baseball does well this season, it will mean Coach Jim Wells has another good team. The 2001 Tide schedule features eight teams ranked by *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball* in their preseason polls.

Alabama is ranked 24th by *Collegiate Baseball*, but is not ranked in the *Baseball America* preseason poll. Among *Collegiate Baseball's* Fabulous 40 on the 2001 Tide slate are number three LSU, number 10 South Carolina, number 15 Oklahoma, number 16 Georgia, number 18 Auburn, number 19 Central Florida, number 21 Mississippi State, number 25 Tennessee, and number 32 Southern Miss. *Baseball America* rankings include number three LSU, number eight South Carolina, number 11 Auburn, number 16 Georgia, number 17 Central Florida, number 21 Mississippi State, and number 25 Southern Miss.

The schedule also includes nine teams that participated in the 2000 NCAA Tournament—South Carolina, Mississippi State, LSU, Florida, Oklahoma, Central Florida, Auburn,

South Alabama, and Miami of Ohio.

Opening the season against number 15 Oklahoma marks the third time since 1996 Alabama has opened the regular season against a nationally-ranked opponent. In 1996, Alabama opened the season with a 7-2 win over number seven Georgia Tech in the first-round of the Olive Garden Classic in Kissimmee, Florida. In 1999, Alabama opened the season at number 17 Houston and won the opener before dropping the next two games of the series.

Baseball Additions

Junior college transfers Kavonski Chatman and Clint Kelley joined the Alabama baseball team for the spring semester.

Chatman (6-1, 190) could see time as an outfielder, pitcher or designated hitter. He bats and throws left-handed. Chatman spent the last two seasons at Northeast Texas Community College, where he played for Coach Chad Tidwell. He attended the same junior college that produced former Alabama All-America Roberto Vaz. Chatman was a member of two district championship squads. He attended high school in his hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Kelley (6-3, 210), a left-handed pitcher, comes to Alabama after spending the last two years at Okaloosa-Walton Community College. His junior college pitching coach, Kevin Berry, was a former assistant coach to Alabama Head Coach Jim Wells. In 50 innings last season, Kelley recorded 60 strikeouts. His team leading 2.22 ERA was third best in the state of Florida. He led his team to the 2000 Florida Panhandle Conference Championship. He attended Morton High School in Peoria, Illinois. The San Diego Padres drafted him in 1998.

Baseball Tickets

One of the toughest tickets in Tuscaloosa in recent years has been for Alabama baseball. The Crimson Tide annually sells out its season ticket books. Although some levels are already sold out since previous holders get first priority, some levels may be available for new purchasers. For information call the Alabama Ticket Office at (205) 348-6111.

This year Alabama will play 35 games at Sewell-Thomas Stadium, beginning with the season-opener February 9 against Oklahoma.

Grand Slammers Barbecue

The 2001 Alabama Grand Slammers pre-season barbecue is Sunday, February 4, Noon-2 p.m. CST in the Hank Crisp Indoor Facility. Tickets will be available at the door. The Alabama baseball team will be available for photographs and autographs. In addition, posters, schedule cards and door prizes will be available. There will be a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the Grand Slammers, the support group for Bama baseball.

Alabama practice sessions, including week-end (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) intrasquad games through February 4, are open to the public.

Good Omen

Although it may be a bit early in Alabama softball's short history to be thinking in

terms of tradition, members of the squad couldn't help but think that perhaps it was a good omen that bad weather forced the Tide of Coach Pat Murphy to begin practice indoors. Alabama was forced indoors last year for its first week of practice and at the end of the year Bama was the nation's Cinderella team, making it all the way to the World Series.

Murphy said, "You could tell they had been working over break and during the off season." He was also impressed with the team's conditioning saying that it shows they are dedicated and did some work on their own during the holiday break.

"I think the seniors are ready to start the season and put their own stamp on the program," said Murphy.

The Crimson Tide will begin its season on February 9, when the team hosts the 2001 Bama Bash.

Softball Tickets

Season tickets for Alabama softball are still available by calling the Alabama ticket office at (205) 348-6111. The Crimson Tide will have 21 home dates, including the Bama Bash in February to open the season and the Crimson Classic in March.

The Crimson Tide's home Southeastern Conference dates include in-state rival Auburn, Western Division rival Mississippi State and last year's Southeastern Conference Eastern Division Champion Kentucky.

Season ticket books range from \$65 for chair back seats to \$50 for bleacher backs.

Gymnastics Honor

During the first two years of her Alabama career, junior gymnast Andree Pickens has earned numerous honors, including an NCAA title, several Southeastern Conference titles and Academic All-SEC. She has also been named SEC and NCAA Region four Gymnast of the Year and as a rookie she was the SEC Freshman of the Year.

Despite already being one of the most decorated gymnasts in the league's storied history, one conference honor eluded her for two years. She had never been named SEC Gymnast of the Week. That changed in the opening meet of the season as Alabama hosted the prestigious Super Six Challenge. Pickens won all-around, uneven bars, and floor exercise and led Bama to a tie with Georgia for the team championship. For her efforts, she was named SEC honoree for the week.

Track Ranks High

Four years ago Harvey Glance came to Alabama as men's track and field coach. His goal was to return the program to national prominence. He can be said to have achieved his goal as the Crimson Tide began the 2001 season ranked fourth in the nation. And Bama opened the indoor season with an impressive victory in the SEC Four-Way at Baton Rouge with competition against other nationally-top ten ranked teams in Auburn and LSU, as well as Mississippi State. So, said Glance, "It's time for us to set new goals."

The most important of those goals, Glance

said, is to stay at the top, but that will not be easy. "It's easier getting to the top than staying on top," said Glance.

The number four ranking is the highest ever for the Crimson Tide in track and field.

Soccer Adds Goalie

The Alabama soccer program received a boost over the holidays when sophomore goalie Courtney Rogers transferred to Alabama from Lees-McRae College, a Division II school in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Rogers was a two-time all-conference honorable mention for the Bobcats.

"We're excited about Courtney transferring here," said Alabama head coach Don Staley. "She was a highly touted goalie from the Sting soccer club in Dallas, Texas. However, she blew out her knee in high school and that scared a lot of schools away from recruiting her."

Rogers helped lead Lees-McRae to the 2000 conference regular season and tournament championships while posting a 1.24 goals-against-average and 5.5 shutouts.

Because she did transfer from a Division II program and enrolled in classes for the spring semester, Rogers will be able to play with the team in its spring season.

Tennis Academics

The Alabama women's tennis team had four of its eight members with a perfect 4.0 grade point average last semester. The team combined for an overall grade point average of 3.66.

Senior Dominique Glinzler (MBA), juniors Jenny Ketchum (Pre-Med) and Becca Baum (Business) and sophomore Stefanie Leung (Business) all had a 4.0 for the semester.

Tide Pride Opportunity

Last year The University of Alabama was forced to send refunds to Alabama fans who ordered some 10,000 season tickets in excess of what is available in Bryant-Denny Stadium. A number of those affected were active alumni of The University.

Athletics Director Mal Moore has announced a plan whereby those active alumni who ordered season tickets last year will be given first priority in joining Tide Pride for the opportunity to purchase football tickets in 2001. Complete details will be sent to those alumni in February.

"Alumni of this University, and particularly those active members of the National Alumni Association, will continue to be a vital part of our athletic success," Moore said. "We have many, many active alumni currently in our Tide Pride program. Now we will offer alumni who ordered tickets last year through the Alumni Association the first opportunity to be a part of this expansion of Tide Pride."

University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen; Vice President for University Advancement Jeffrey McNeill; and The University's Intercollegiate Athletic Committee approved the new program.

There will also be an increase in the number of season tickets allotted to University of Alabama faculty and staff and to football lettermen. The number of tickets available to University students will not be affected.

2000-2001 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
63	Global Sports (Exh.)	57
95	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	87
92	Troy State	64
110	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	63
100	Louisville (Fox Sports TV)	71
107	Grambling	61
68	Wofford	64
73	Akron @ Birmingham	59
94	North Texas @ Mobile	55
Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan		
64	Northern Iowa	56
69	Washington	60
73	Cincinnati (OT)	77
82	Alabama State	56
92	Southeast Louisiana	63
82	@ LSU (J-P TV)	73
69	@ Tennessee (ESPN)	86
72	Mississippi State (SEC TV)	59
82	Ole Miss (J-P TV)	63
58	@ Arkansas (SEC TV)	87
Jan. 23	Kentucky (ESPN)	8:00
Jan. 27	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 31	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 10	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 14	South Carolina	7:00
Feb. 17	Ohio State (CBS)	2:30
Feb. 21	@ Auburn	7:00
Feb. 24	@ Florida (J-P TV)	Noon
Feb. 28	Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
March 3	@ Ole Miss	TBA
March 8-	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 11@	Nashville	

Women's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
89	Uralmash BC, Russia (Exh.)	69
109	SBC Prerov, Czech. (Exh.)	61
66	@ Samford	42
64	Tulane	63
Illinois-Chicago Thanksgiving Tourney		
76	California	63
73	Illinois-Chicago	43
53	@ South Alabama	46
70	@ Belmont	67
65	Memphis	55
54	Michigan State (ESPN)	53
Sun Splash @ Nassau, Bahamas		
66	Creighton	56
54	Oklahoma State (OT)	58
St. Peter's Holiday @ Jersey City, N.J.		
74	Massachusetts	62
86	St. Peter's	77
74	Alabama A&M	41
41	@ Georgia	96
60	Auburn	53
67	South Carolina	82
57	Ole Miss	65
65	@ Mississippi State	62
Jan. 25	@ Kentucky	6:00
Jan. 28	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 1	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 4	Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 8	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 18	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 22	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 25	Florida	2:00
March 1-	SEC Tournament	
March 4	@ Memphis	TBA

Gymnastics

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
Super Six Challenge		
1. (tie) Alabama 195.35, Georgia 195.35,		
3. Stanford 195.3, 4. Michigan 194.475,		
5. Florida 194.425, 6. Penn State 193.275		
196.25	Auburn	192.35
196.65	@ Florida	195.55
Jan. 28	Cal-State Fullerton, UCLA @ Los Angeles	2:00
Feb. 2	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	Auburn @ Birmingham	TBA
Feb. 16	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 24	Kentucky	7:00
March 3	@ Georgia	6:30
March 17	Penn State, Rutgers, Cornell @ State College, Pa.	6:00
March 23	SEC Championships @ Birmingham	TBA
April 7	NCAA Region IV	6:00
April 19-	NCAA Championships	
April 21	@ Athens, Ga.	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)	First
Jan. 26-27	@ Arkansas	
Feb. 3	@ Florida	
Feb. 9-10	@ Iowa State	
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington	
March 2-3	USATF @ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville	

Men's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
127	Florida	110
128.5	@ LSU	169.5
109.5	Auburn	184.5
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	3rd
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
104.5	@ Georgia	180.5
153	Florida State	145
136	Clemson	105
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Mar. 3	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 22-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 24	@ College Station, Tex.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Women's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
102	Florida	136
173	@ LSU	123
112	Auburn	186
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	5th
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
105	@ Georgia	178
161.5	Florida State	134.5
137	Clemson	100
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 25	Last Chance	10:00 a.m.
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 15-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 17	@ Long Island, N.Y.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State Auburn, LSU)	Second
Feb. 27	Illinois Invitational @ Champaign, Ill.	
Feb. 9-10	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg	
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington	
March 2	Florida Last Chance @ Gainesville	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville	

2001 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball		
Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
Feb. 9	Oklahoma	7:00
Feb. 10	Oklahoma	4:00
Feb. 11	Oklahoma	2:00
Feb. 13	Nicholls State	7:00
Feb. 14	Nicholls State	7:00
Feb. 16	Miami (Ohio)	7:00
Feb. 17	Miami (Ohio)	4:00
Feb. 18	Miami (Ohio)	1:00
Feb. 21	South Alabama	7:00
Feb. 23	@ UCF	5:00
Feb. 24	@ UCF	12:00
Feb. 25	@ UCF	12:00
Feb. 28	Austin Peay	7:00
Mar. 2	Winthrop	7:00
Mar. 3	Winthrop	4:00
Mar. 4	Winthrop	2:00
Mar. 7	Louisiana Tech	7:00
Mar. 9	Vanderbilt	7:00
Mar. 10	Vanderbilt	4:00
Mar. 11	Vanderbilt	2:00
Mar. 14	UAB	7:00
Mar. 16	@ Kentucky	2:00
Mar. 17	@ Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 18	@ Kentucky	12:00
Mar. 21	B'ham Southern	7:00
Mar. 23	@ Ole Miss	6:30
Mar. 24	@ Ole Miss	4:00
Mar. 25	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 27	@ Louisiana Tech	7:00
Mar. 28	@ Northwest St.	7:00
Mar. 30	South Carolina	7:00
Mar. 31	South Carolina	3:15
Apr. 1	South Carolina	1:00
Apr. 3	Jacksonville St.	7:00
Apr. 4	Southern Miss	7:00
Apr. 6	Georgia	7:00
Apr. 7	Georgia	4:00
Apr. 8	Georgia	2:00
Apr. 11	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 13	@ Tennessee	6:00
Apr. 14	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 15	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 1	West Alabama	7:00
Apr. 20	@ Auburn	7:00
Apr. 21	@ Auburn	3:15
Apr. 22	@ Auburn	1:30
Apr. 25	Samford	7:00
Apr. 27	LSU	7:00
Apr. 28	LSU	4:00
Apr. 29	LSU	1:00
May 4	@ Miss. State	6:30
May 5	@ Miss. State	5:00
May 6	@ Miss. State	1:30
May 11	Arkansas	7:00
May 12	Arkansas	4:00
May 13	Arkansas	1:00
May 16	SEC Tournament	
May 20	@ Hoover Met	
May 25	NCAA Regionals	
May 27	TBA	
June 1	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 3	TBA	
June 8	College World Series	
June 16	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

All times central

Softball		
Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
Feb. 9-11		
Bama Bash		
(Alabama, Illinois State, Samford, Tennessee Tech)		
Feb. 16-18		
@ Texas A&M Classic		
(Alabama, Texas A&M, Penn State, UT-Corpus Christi)		
Feb. 23-25		
NFCA Leadoff Classic		
@ Columbus, Ga.		
(Alabama, Arizona State, Kansas, Massachusetts)		
Feb. 27	Oakland	7:00
Feb. 28	Michigan	7:00
Mar. 2-4		
Crimson Classic		
(Alabama, Evansville, Marshall, Michigan)		
Mar. 7	Ball State (2)	5:00
Mar. 10	@ Georgia (2)	1:00
Mar. 11	@ Georgia	1:00
Mar. 17	Arkansas (2)	1:00
Mar. 18	Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 20	@ Jacksonville St	6:30
Mar. 24	@ Tennessee (2)	2:00
Mar. 25	@ Tennessee	1:00
Mar. 27	@ Florida (2)	5:00
Mar. 28	@ Florida	1:00
Mar. 30	Kentucky	6:30
Mar. 31	Kentucky (2)	1:00
Apr. 3	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 4	UAB	7:00
Apr. 7	@ LSU (2)	4:00
Apr. 8	@ LSU	1:00
Apr. 11	Chattanooga (2)	5:00
Apr. 14	Ole Miss (2)	1:00
Apr. 15	Ole Miss	1:00
Apr. 18	Auburn (2)	5:00
Apr. 19	Auburn	1:00
Apr. 21	Mississippi St (2)	1:00
Apr. 22	Mississippi State	1:00
Apr. 24	Troy @ Mont. (2)	5:00
Apr. 28	@ So. Carolina (2)	1:00
Apr. 29	@ So. Carolina	1:00
May 4	@ Albany (2)	6:00
May 10	SEC Tournament	
May 12	@ Chattanooga, Tenn.	
May 17	NCAA Regionals	
May 20	@ campus sites	
May 24	College World Series	
May 28	@ Oklahoma City	

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 17	SEC Three-Way (Tennessee, @ Miss. State)
Mar. 22	Alabama Relays
Mar. 25	
Apr. 7	@ Clemson Invit.
Apr. 13	Sea Ray Relays
Apr. 15	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
Apr. 21	@ TCU
Apr. 27	Drake Relays
Apr. 28	@ Des Moines, Iowa
May 10	SEC Championships
May 13	@ Columbia, S.C.
May 18	Georgia Tech Last Chance
May 30	NCAA Championships
June 2	@ Eugene, Oregon

Men's Tennis		
Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
Jan. 18-	SEC Indoor	
Jan. 21	@ Atlanta	
Jan. 28	Troy State	2:00
Feb. 2	Southern Miss	12:00
Feb. 2	Samford	6:30
Feb. 10	MTSU	1:00
Feb. 11	Florida State	1:00
Feb. 18	@ Kentucky	1:00
Feb. 21	AUM	2:00
Feb. 24	South Car St	9:00
Feb. 24	UAB	1:00
Mar. 2	Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 4	Tennessee	1:00
Mar. 9	@ So. Carolina	2:00
Mar. 11	@ Georgia	12:00
Mar. 14-	Blue-Gray Tourney	
Mar. 18	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 24	Vanderbilt	1:00
Mar. 27	@ Furman	2:30
Mar. 28	@ Clemson	1:00
Apr. 4	@ Florida	1:00
Apr. 7	LSU	1:00
Apr. 8	Arkansas	1:00
Apr. 11	Mississippi State	1:00
Apr. 14	Baylor	1:00
Apr. 15	Auburn	9:00
Apr. 19-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Lexington	
May 21-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Athens	

All times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 10-	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 11	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 19-	Mercedes Invitational	
Feb. 20	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	
Mar. 5-	Matlock Collegiate	
Mar. 6	@ Lakeland, Fla.	
Mar. 23-	Spring Invitational	
Mar. 25	TBA	
Mar. 30-	Cleveland Golf Inv.	
Apr. 1	@ Augusta, Ga.	
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	TBA	
May 10-11	Atlanta Intercollegiate	
May 17-	NCAA Regionals	
May 19	TBA	
May 30-	NCAA Championships	
June 2	@ Durham, N.C.	

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 17	SEC Four-Way (LSU, Georgia, @ Miss. St.)
Mar. 22-	Alabama Relays
Mar. 25	
Apr. 7	Spec Townes Relays @ Athens, Ga.
Apr. 14	Miami Invitational @ Miami
Apr. 26-	Penn Relays
Apr. 28	@ Philadelphia

Women's Tennis		
Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
7	Chattanooga	0
7	Denver	0
4	Samford	0
Jan. 27	UNC-Greensboro	9:00
Jan. 27	Troy State	2:00
Feb. 3	@ South Florida	1:00
Feb. 4	@ Florida State	11:00
Feb. 10	@ Ill.-Chicago	Noon
Feb. 11	@ Northwestern	10:00
Feb. 16	Mississippi State	2:00
Feb. 18	@ LSU	1:00
Feb. 25	@ Auburn	Noon
Mar. 3	@ Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 10	South Carolina	Noon
Mar. 16	Tennessee	2:00
Mar. 18	Florida	1:00
Mar. 24	@ Georgia	Noon
Mar. 27	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Mar. 31	Vanderbilt	Noon
Apr. 1	Houston	11:00
Apr. 6	La-Monroe	2:00
Apr. 13	UAB	Noon
Apr. 15	Arkansas	Noon
Apr. 19-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Starkville	
May 11-	NCAA Regionals	
May 13	TBA	
May 17-	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Stone Mountain, Ga	

All times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 23-	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 25	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 16-	Lady Gamecock	
Mar. 18	@ Columbia, SC	
Mar. 30-	Liz Murphey Classic	
Apr. 1	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 6-	LSU Invitational	
Apr. 8	@ Baton Rouge, La.	
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
May 10	NCAA Regional	
May 12	TBA	
May 24-	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Orlando, Fla.	



**Go with
a proven
winner!**

*When it comes to printing and
promotional products EBSCO Media
is always ahead of the other
team. Call us. We'll help
you win at your game.*

1•800•765•0852



EBSCO MEDIA

NEW!

THE CRIMSON TIDE TAILGATE COLLECTION



Sand Chair

Just like the Tailgate Chair this chair is ultra light, ultra strong and ultra comfortable. 3 reclining positions. It won't rust and is made with a stain resistant washable fabric.

\$ 29.99*



Ultra Light Folding Chair

Ultra light, ultra strong and ultra comfortable. With a rust proof frame, stain resistant fabric, 5 reclining positions, built in drink holders, won't sink in the sand and angled rubber feet for maximum grip on a slippery deck. Tumbler **not** included.

\$59.99*



Dual Drink Receptacle



Non-Skid Rubber Feet Reinforced Crossbar



Back Pouch Holds Magazines & Valuables



5-Position Reclining Back



EZ Cook Grill

This cost saving newspaper burning grill is portable and cleans up in seconds. Collapses to fit in team tote bag. Great for tailgating, camping, picnics etc.

\$24.99*



Team Helmet Umbrella

Provides shelter from the rain and shade from the sun. Comes in team helmet colors and graphics for great looking fun.

\$19.99*

Insulated Pilsners



These unique 12 oz. pilsner style tumblers have a capped bottom to prevent ring condensation.

\$19.99*
(set of 4)

CREDIT CARD ORDERS CALL 1-800-713-2261

OR SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: BAMA MAGAZINE, P.O. BOX 866104, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35486



Quantity	Amount Ea.	Total
Ultra Light Chair: _____	\$ 59.99	\$ _____
Sand Chair: _____	\$ 29.99	\$ _____
Helmet Umbrella: _____	\$ 19.99	\$ _____
EZ Cook Grill: _____	\$ 24.99	\$ _____
Insulated Tumblers: _____	\$ 19.99 (set of 4)	\$ _____
Shipping & Handling (*see below).....		\$ _____
Alabama Residents Add 8% Sales Tax.....		\$ _____

CRIMSON TIDE

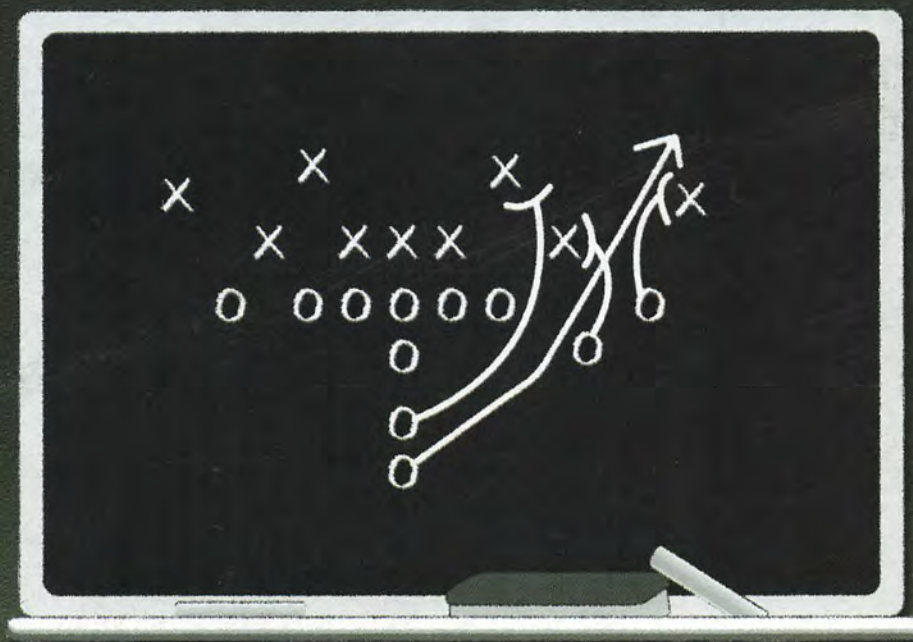
(Including Shipping & Handling) **TOTAL: \$ _____**

*Add shipping and handling charges to each order as follows: Up to \$25 add \$5.95 - \$25.01 to \$45 add \$7.95 - \$45.01 to \$60 add \$9.95 - \$60.01 to \$90 add \$12.95 - \$90.01 to \$125 add \$15.95 - \$125.01 to \$150 add \$19.99 over \$150 add \$24.99. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery - Continental U.S. Only

☐ My check or money order payable to **BAMA MAGAZINE** is enclosed: Charge to my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa
Expiration Date: _____

CARD NO. _____
NAME: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____
SIGNATURE: _____ GIFT FROM: _____

MAKE THE BIG PLAY...



The Magazine For The Crimson Tide Football Fan. The Magazine For You. Month After Month 'BAMA Brings You The Inside Scoop On Crimson Tide Football. Not Just The Headlines.

'Bama Magazine has been giving Alabama fans the inside story on all aspects of Crimson Tide Football since 1979. Readers get the facts and figures, but also get the story behind the story. We profile the stars and the stars-to-be, coaches, and even the stars of yesteryear as we remember Alabama tradition. And for the best and most accurate recruiting information, nothing compares.

A subscription brings you 10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class.

We don't stop with football season, either. Keep up with all Alabama sports, August through May. Great gift idea, too!

Make the big play to get on the inside of Crimson Tide football. Return the coupon or for immediate service, just call toll-free **1-800-713-2261.**

PLEASE SEND ME ONE YEAR (24 ISSUES) OF 'BAMA FOR ONLY \$35.00.

Total amount enclosed \$_____ for _____ subscriptions. Alabama residents add \$2.00 sales tax to each order. Overseas add \$10.00 each order.

☐ Payment Enclosed

Make checks payable to:

☐ Mastercard

'BAMA Magazine
P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

☐ Visa

Bank Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please Print

To: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ New Subscription _____ Renewal _____

If This Is A Gift,

Gift From: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ State _____ Zip _____